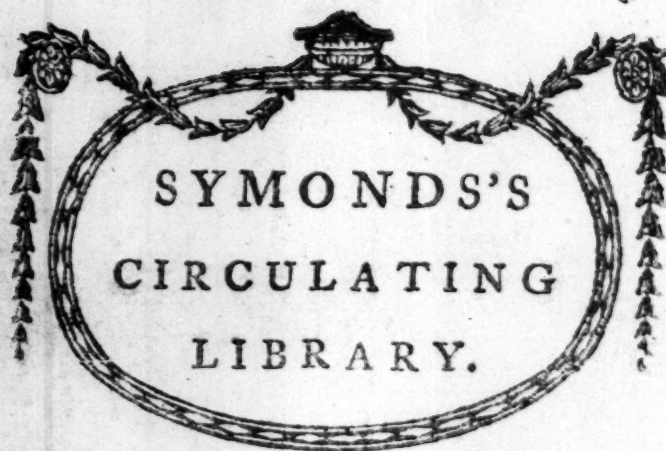
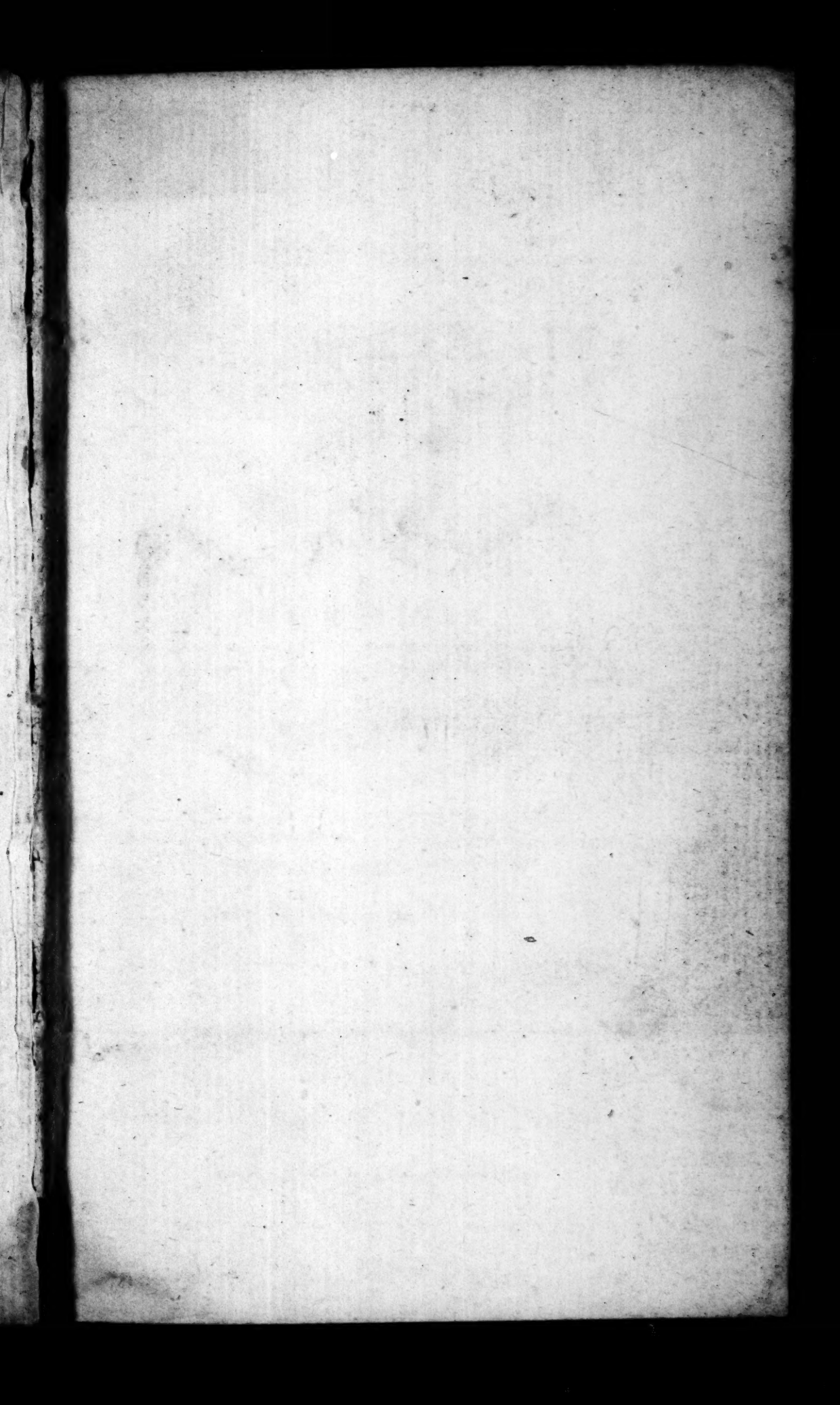


10/0
98





012618. df. 11.

THE
KENTISH CURATE;

OR, THE
HISTORY
OF
LAMUEL LYTTLETON,
A
FOUNDLING.

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.

VOL. IV.

L O N D O N:

PRINTED for J. PARSONS, No. 21, Pater-noster-
Row.

M, DCC, LXXXVI.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM

OF NATURAL HISTORY

AND MINERALOGY



THE
ADVENTURES
OF
LAMUEL LYTTLETON,
THE KENTISH CURATE.

BOOK THE THIRTEENTH.

(CONTINUED FROM VOL. III.)

I WAS soon after informed, that our fugitive late companion, on the found, was taken up for desertion, and now had an opportunity of attending a general court martial, held for his trial at New-York.

VOL. IV.

B

It

2 THE KENTISH CURATE.

It appeared that he had given the regiment the slip no less than five times before; and as often had met punishment by whipping. The last time, it appeared, that he had gone over to the Provincial party, and actually had given intelligence to the enemy relative to the situation of the English in Long Island. He was forced to confess, that even in Connecticut he could not act uprightly amidst his new masters, but committed several little felonies, for which he was imprisoned a considerable time before he effected his escape.

It was now deemed necessary by the court to make his punishment the most exemplary. He was ordered to be shot, and the day fixed for execution. I attended him several times during his confinement in the guard prison, when he gave me a curious history of his life. His name in the list of the regiment was John Kelly; but in his other situations, he had passed with as many names as ever an actor assumed on the stage.

He was a native of London, brought up at the blue-coat school, and served his apprenticeship

ticeship to a tinman in Southwark. His little learning made him proud, pert, and impudent. He frequented spouting-clubs, disputing societies—robbed his master—was sent to bridewell—served several months of his time in that seminary—returned to his master—renewed his tricks—grew a greater proficient in vice—was concerned in a burglary—tried at Guildford—received benefit of clergy on being cast, and in consequence was transported to America; where he had not been long before he found means to procure a birth on board a vessel bound for England; to which, returning before the expiration of his time, he was sent back to his former situation in the new gaol in Southwark.

Kelly found means to escape from prison, listed for a soldier, and deserted the day following. He received the royal bounty again in another regiment, and again withdrew from the army. He was taken, however, in Oxfordshire—conducted to the Savoy—sent to the regiment, and received two hundred lashes.

He had not well recovered from his fore-

4 THE KENTISH CURATE.

ness when he ran away, and entered into another regiment, receiving five guineas as his Majesty's royal bounty. This was in Suffex, and after the commencement of the American war; to avoid being concerned with which, he committed a felony at Brighthelmstone, in stealing a tankard from an inn, for which, he was committed to the county gaol. On his trial, the prosecutor not choosing to appear, he was discharged by proclamation, delivered up to his serjeant then in waiting, and soon after received, at two several times, five hundred lashes.

Kelly soon after found means to return to London, entered into a gang of the most abandoned thieves in the metropolis, committed many dreadful depredations on the public, hanged several of his companions to save himself, and without being discovered as a returned transport, entered into the footguards, and soon after was draughted from the regiment to go abroad to America.

Here, as I have observed, he found means to abandon his colours, and in consequence
met

met the severity of the military law. Now all hope appeared to have quite left our nefarious hero. He was advised to prepare for his approaching dissolution; and at last he seemed sincere and in earnest about the concerns which are of infinite importance.

On the evening before the day appointed for his death, a young woman was suffered to visit him in the prison, and allowed to remain with him several hours. This proved a golden opportunity for Kelly, who now postponed his prayers, and fell upon a project to make his escape from the jaws of death.

The frequent commotions in the city occasioned by certain incendiaries, made the guard and the officers the less watchful of their prisoner. Another reason of their supineness will be gathered from what follows hereafter.

The young woman was much about the prisoner's age, and not a little resembled him in his hue and general complexion. It is true the artifice about to be practised was but stale, and might easily have been rendered

6 THE KENTISH CURATE.

abortive in its effects, had the military been more experienced in the whiles of desperate people. But there is a certain infatuation which sometimes falls even upon the most vigilant, hardly to be accounted for by any analogy of human stupidity.

This female friend furnished Kelly with proper instruments to remove his irons. He then exchanged his dress for that of the fair one, and she, attiring herself in his habiliments, assumed the character of the prisoner, and even fastened her feet in the bolts.

When our hero, thus equipped, knocked at the gate, a corporal opened it, went into the strong room, and beheld the man, as he imagined, in the same doleful distress of mind, crying, sighing, and holding a book in his hand. Without the least suspicion, he suffered the supposed fair damsel to withdraw, and again barricading the door, returned to his station with the party who attended him.

On the morning of execution, I was admitted to visit the prisoner in the dungeon, and administered every consolation in my power.

er. The place was but dark, as the lamp was extinguished, and the person of the young woman but dimly seen; and as she made little return to my questions, but sad sobs and bitter sighs, I had not opportunity of making the discovery. My stay was short; and on my return, found all the corps drawn up for the execution. I waited upon the officers at the head quarters, observed their smiles amidst the solemnity, and overheard Colonel —— exclaim, “D —— me, I fear we shall frighten the fellow out of his life!”

The prisoner at length was brought out of the dungeon, and was attended by an independent minister, who piously exhorted the supposed culprit to banish fear, and meet death with composure.

The disguised fair maiden arrived at the place, and now thought it high time to cast off the mask. I was never more surprized, and struck with any incident which had occurred in the past course of my life, than when the cry of “I am not the soldier!” pierced

8 THE KENTISH CURATE.

my ears with those of the alarmed officers. They immediately ran up to the pretended prisoner, who quickly unfolded the whole affair, and laughed at them all together.

The news reached the crowd without the military circle, and a tumult of joy broke forth from the feeling citizens, which was testified by loud shouts, and a continued roar. The officers now solemnly declared, that although it was their full intention to carry the criminal to the last stage of repentance and dread, as a warning to others, yet they had resolved to save him from death, and given orders that the fire locks for the execution should only be charged with powder.

The young woman in the confusion, and by the aid of the citizens, and some say the soldiers, made her escape from the field, and was not to be found. A reward was offered for apprehending the man without effect; and it was generally supposed that he had fled over the river to Washington, on the White Plains.

The

The soldiers upon the guard were severely reprimanded for their neglect of duty, in suffering the prisoner to escape; and several of them would have been punished, had not the alarm of war diverted the purpose of the officers from proceeding farther.

It was about this time I was informed, by a fugitive from Philadelphia, that my dear Maria was upon the point of returning to Europe with her father in a Dutch vessel; so that the end of my voyage to the western world was quite defeated. I remained several days in a state of melancholly, and was observed by the officers to be quite altered in my appearance, and almost distracted in my demeanor. I endeavored to divert this trouble in my anxious mind, by attending the plays and entertainments performed by the military gentlemen; but all would not do. Some of them construed my perturbation to a dread of the ensuing scenes of blood shed. Indeed that was least in my thought; and I observed, by their conduct, that they themselves were willing to put off the evil day to

IO THE KENTISH CURATE

as great a distance as they could. From General Howe, down to the lowest subaltern or soldier, appeared but little disposition for pursuing the war against the Provincials.

The plan proposed to government, indeed, had been approved; but alas! the necessary force required was not sent by the American minister. An augmentation of but two thousand men, instead of fifteen thousand, had much the appearance of unpardonable indolence, or a want of due concern for the recovery of the colonies. Indifference at home, no doubt, tended much to abate the zeal of even Britons abroad; so that, whilst the enemy was gathering strength, and increasing in knowledge and the arts of war; whilst the French and Spaniards were meditating a blow, and the Dutch supplying the Provincials with military stores, the devoted troops of England, unconscious of their impending danger and disgrace, were wasting the summer in childish amusements.

It was my first intention to have attended the
the

the fleet with Admiral Lord Howe to Philadelphia, who first proposed to sail up the Chesapeake, in order to land his brother with a body of troops, and then return, to go round to the Delaware, sail up the river, and attack that city, in conjunction with those who were landed. But as I had lost all hope of beholding my adorable Maria in America, and having no prospect of meeting my parents, whom I was informed were also returning to Britain, I consented to accompany Major-General Burgoyne; who, with about seven thousand men, was preparing to sail up the river St. Lawrence to Quebec; and from thence, crossing the lakes, and marching forward to Albany, was to proceed till he met General Clinton; and so, agreeable to the plan proposed, cut off the communication between the northern and southern provinces.

Upon this plan much depended; but the forces destined for so desirable a purpose, were quite inadequate to carry it into execution. So many grand operations, all carry-
ing

ing on at the same time, required a more formidable army than Britain could well spare. Thirteen extensive populous provinces were not easily to be awed by a few detached troops, which every new acquisition weakened and diminished. An internal war with the colonists, indeed, was highly impolitic; for if even the veteran Roman legions could never entirely subdue the barbarous Britons, unused to warlike acts, and but little removed from a state of nature, in so diminutive a country as our island, how could it be supposed that so vast a tract of continent, inhabited by men tried in war, and tenacious of their freedom, could ever be conquered by an handful of troops thus scattered and disunited?

However, this intention of mine was counteracted by an accident which I never expected to have happened, after the information which I so recently received from Philadelphia.

As I was anxiously musing one evening in rather a sequestered situation, I observed three
quakers

quakers at an inconsiderable distance walking in a pleasant shade, engaged in a conversation which I could not help attending to, after having secreted myself behind a thick hedge. They came directly opposite to the place where I was, and sitting down, thus proceeded :

First Quaker.

This woeful war, friend Bradley, will certainly prove the ruin of our mother country. Why should you return to a land which has destroyed itself by luxury, riot, and dreadful dissipation?

The name Bradley instantly pierced my ear, and touched my inmost soul. I remained on the rack, but durst not disturb the conversation.

Second Quaker.

My daughter is inimical to war and bloodshed. The city of Philadelphia will quickly be besieged, and the province of Pennsylvania prove no more an asylum to peaceable people. Thus far we are come on our return to London. I have finally settled all
my

14 THE KENTISH CURATE.

my affairs in the new world, and so am resolved to live and die in the place where I drew my first breath.

Third Quaker.

This land, friend Bradley, may yet become a place of peace and perfect tranquillity to our brethren, and especially to thee and thy dear daughter, the tender maiden whom I love and wish to cherish during the days of our pilgrimage in the wilderness of this world, friend.

Second Quaker.

I have no objection to thy person, thy family, or thy connections. I always looked on thee as my friend, and have no objection to thy proposal, if thou wilt accompany me and Maria to England:

First Quaker.

Truly the times are dangerous in the provinces, and I myself could even wish to attend thee to Britain with my whole family; there to reside, as in an hiding place, till the storms and tumults of war shall cease in the colonies

colonies, and nation rise against nation no more.

Third Quaker.

Well, friends; then I should be heartily glad of your company. One ship will carry us all on board. One wind will waft us ail to the haven where we would be, and one providence will prove our guide, and direct all our ways. I am resolved to accompany the maiden wherever she goes, if thou wilt stay but a few weeks in this city till I can settle my worldly affairs.

It was well that these gentlemen immediately dropped their conversation, for I was on the point of discovering myself that moment. However, prevailing over the violence of my passion, I kept out of sight, followed them to the city, and saw where they retired to. I knew Mr. Bradley's voice, and though I but dimly beheld the persons of the other two, I thought I had seen them before.

The shadows of night were fast advancing, and I could find no opportunity of view-
ing

ing the alone object of my affection that evening, though I was persuaded that she was certainly in New-York with her father, to whom, however, I durst not make my personal appearance, for fear of thwarting all my designs,

I wrote a letter, drawn with all the ardency of sincere love, which I directed to Maria, and sent by a young woman belonging to an inn, where I was acquainted, bidding her be cautious to deliver it to no one else, and to wait for an answer if she could happily meet with the lady alone. This succeeded beyond my most sanguine expectation; for the girl returned within half an hour, with a few lines, desiring me to call at her lodging about six that evening, as her father and friends would be all out at the meeting.

This administered to my mind the highest consolation, and made me thankful that ever I visited America. I began to imagine that all my adversity was over, and that yet I should, after many difficulties, accomplish
the

the object of all my warmest wishes. I longed for the return of evening, and wished that the sun would roll his rapid wheels with greater swiftness, that the moments and hours that parted me from my love might fly faster away.

I dined with several of the officers, who observed my recovered hilarity, but could not divine the cause. The general discourse at table now no longer turned on trifles, but on the main business of our leaving Britain. The arduous expedition of the Admiral, the attempt of General Clinton, and the most hazardous design of General Burgoyne in crossing the lakes, and traversing unknown, uncultivated climes, furnished the principal topics. It was now high time for us all to be aroused from that lethargy which had so long prevailed, and with real concern act for the honor of England and the rights of his Majesty and his heirs; but a sad disappointment awaited our countrymen. The die was cast; the decree was gone forth, and all
the

the feeble efforts of the British army is to be rendered abortive.

But it being injudicious in a writer of history to make his readers anticipate the catastrophe of his tale in the middle, I shall forbear to prophesy, and proceed in my narrative.

The wished-for hour arrived. I ran to the place which the fair one had appointed for our meeting after a long absence, and for the first time beheld her delightful face in that quarter of the world. I cannot express the emotion of my mind on the happy occasion, nor describe what I felt, and what my Maria appeared to feel in her tender bosom, at that instant.

Let lovers who have long been parted, and at length were so happily blessed, imagine, for they can best conceive the glow of gladness that prevailed in our united souls.

Words may express our wishes for such bliss,
But sink in the display of joy like this.

After a while, exchanging our mutual protestations

testations of mutual perseverance in affection, I attempted to present Maria with a brief description of my sufferings for her sake, and she was about to inform me of her own misfortunes, when a loud knock at the street door alarmed us. My fair one looked out from a window, and begged me to run down to the bottom of the orchard and get over the wall immediately; for her father and the two friends, whom I found to be those who were conversing together in the grove the preceding evening, were positively returned from the meeting.

I embraced the soother of my soul in ecstasy, and softly whispered in her gentle ear, "Can you ever love another, Maria?"—She sighed, whilst her fair face wore a blooming blush, and with a tenderness unutterable, answered "No." I hesitated no longer. The knocking was reiterated, and I just had time to disappear before I was discovered.

The same night a base attempt was made to set the town on fire in several places, which threw the whole city and garrison into the
utmost

utmost confusion. The incendiaries were suspected but not discovered, as they made their escape the moment when they imagined they had effected their diabolical purpose.

Maria was my chief, my alone care, during the dreadful disturbance. I ran to her assistance, but found that her father and her were removed to the house of a friend for safety. The distress and horror which Mr. Bradley felt on the occasion determined him to leave these scenes of war and desolation the first opportunity. He embarked with Maria and his two friends on board a Merchant ship, bound, under convoy, for England, at the time when my urgent avocation called me on board a ship of war.

The extreme affliction which I felt was soon removed by my attention being called to the opening campaign. I had indulged a hope of accompanying a party to the assistance of General Burgoyne, who having sailed up the river St. Lawrence with seven thousand men, was executing the grand plan of crossing the lakes, and penetrating to Albany, where

where he expected to meet succours from the southern army.

By securing the entire navigation of Hudson's river, which separates the northern from the middle and southern colonies, the Provincial power would have been much weakened. Lieutenant-General Burgoyne distinguished himself for his bravery the last war in Portugal. His troops were composed of British and German soldiers, with a fine train of artillery. To strike the greater terror into the Americans, and hasten their return to obedience, the General also engaged a body of savages to act as allies to the King of Great Britain against the revolted Colonists.

These Indians were procured at immense cost, in a profusion of presents, amounting to an hundred and fifty thousand pounds. The General issued a proclamation, inviting the inhabitants to return to their allegiance, and threatening them with the merciless ravages of the Indians, if they continued in rebellion: but though his design, as he afterwards declared,

declared, was to excite obedience ; first, by encouragement, and next by threat, not the commission of severity ; *to speak daggers, but to use none* ; yet his conduct on the occasion proved highly injurious to the interest of the King. The terror which the savages inspired, roused the Provincials every where to rise up. The barbarities were represented through the country with many exaggerations, and the dread of the tomahawk and scalping-knife gave courage to the most timid, and made all the people of the north provinces unite in the defence of their lives and liberty.

Nor was this well-concerted scheme of government unknown to General Washington, who was now appointed to the distinguished rank of dictator : for the Marquis Fayette, nephew to M. de Noailles, the French ambassador at the court of London, who had resided with his uncle for some time, and lived in intimacy with many of the confidential servants of the crown, obtained every important information concerning the plan of operations for the campaign, especially re-
specting

specting the northern army. He suddenly withdrew to France, and without communicating his intentions to his relations, or obtaining leave of absence from the French court, he embarked on board a vessel bound to America, to serve in General Washington's army.

Burgoyne, having crossed Lake Champlain, arrived before Ticonderago July 2d, 1777. The fortress, commanded by General St. Clare, surrendered on the night of the 6th, before any attack could be made, for which he was tried by a court-martial, and found guilty of neglect of duty.

Of this success, flattering and promising as it appeared, the General sent immediate notice to Sir William Howe, whose expedition was retarded by waiting for intelligence from the northern army, and who now, not doubting of a speedy progress of that army to Albany, left general instructions with Sir Henry Clinton, and so proceeded in his part of the plan, which was the reduction of Philadelphia.

Lord

Lord George Germain had recommended to the commander in chief, to make a warm diversion on the coast of Massachusetts Bay and New Hampshire, to weaken the American forces in the back settlements; but, as has been already observed, he did not send the necessary force for these purposes. The General representing this to the secretary, that diversion was consequently laid aside, which facilitated the dreadful catastrophe in the captivity of Burgoyne's army.

Sir William, well aware that it would be impossible to penetrate through the Jerseys, and pass his army across the Delaware, when the enemy's troops were ready to dispute his passage, endeavored, by stratagem, to bring Washington, to a general engagement. But this did not answer his design. The American commander held an advantageous camp in the Jerseys, and was too cautious to be circumvented. The plan of Great Britain was now perfectly known to him. His army daily was gaining strength. Fifty pieces of brass cannon had arrived, with several French officers, besides

besides the Marquis, who laid open the plan, and the Provincial officers themselves were much improved.

General Howe relinquishing his attempt of crossing the country, adopted a new plan of operation, which was attended with great delay. He embarked his army in transports, and proceeded to the scene of action by sea. The main army thus embarked, consisted of 14,000 men, 8500 were left at New-York, besides the sick, and 3000 defended Rhode Island.

When we look upon such modern manœuvres of chief commanders, it is impossible to refrain deeply lamenting the sad decline of British courage and intrepidity. Where are now the Edwards and Henrys of England, who penetrated France with an inferior force, and braved myriads of the enemy in their own country, carrying conquest and victory up to the gates of the capital? Had a Marlborough, or a Frederick been in such a situation, they would not have failed round the enemy at so great a distance from danger, or protracted a

war of such vast consequence to their country, to fill their own pockets, and ensure another campaign. The conduct of both the Howes was reprobated by many in the service. The loyalists spoke freely, and declared that the brothers were bound by every tie of gratitude not to pursue the war with vigor, and in earnest against the Provincials.

It fell to my lot, contrary to my wishes, to sail with the fleet conducted by Admiral Lord Howe, which arrived at the mouth of the Delaware on the 30th of July. There were but nine pilots on board, and these not the most skilful. We had no boats capable of withstanding the row-boats and gallies of the enemy, who had collected a number of floating batteries, fire-rafts, and fire-ships, which certainly would have greatly endangered the fleet in the night.

These and other circumstances made the Admiral and General determine not to land, but sail two degrees farther to the south, in order to reach the Chesapeak-Bay. In this voyage, we were much impeded by contrary winds.

winds. The whole fleet, however, on the 16th of August, entered the Bay, and proceeded through a dangerous and difficult navigation to the mouth of the river Elk. The whole army landed on the 25th, when the men in general appeared in good spirits, considering the intense heat of the season, and the fatigue, inseparable from so tedious a voyage.

Ah me! what pangs ambitious steps await,
 What mighty ills imbitter transient state!
 When disappointment whets her galling stings,
 And black revenge prepares her Griffin wings.

B O O K XIV.

WASHINGTON, that cautious General, was quickly apprised of the fleet's destination, and accordingly marched his army the instant we landed, to cover Philadelphia, which he knew was the main object of our expedition. He passed the Delaware with fifteen thousand men, and approached the English at Brandywine, a little stream that runs into the Delaware, about twenty-two miles below the city.

This appeared a hilly country, covered with wood, and rendered every where strong by nature, being also full of creeks, rivers, and marshy grounds in the vallies. The Provincial army was visibly augmenting as it advanced.

After several movements of our army, the General ordered the Hessians to begin the
attack

attack on the enemy. Immediately these veterans rushed impetuously on, and discovered incredible intrepidity and valour. A body of such courageous troops appeared capable of braving the greatest force, and carrying conquest in opposition to any danger. It was no wonder then, that now they engaged an army, composed of but ill disciplined Americans, with French officers, that havock, ruin, and dismay, proved the effect of their victorious arms. Before these, and the bold British troops, the broken ranks of Provincials fled under the covert of night, which prevented the total destruction of Washington's forces. It was unsafe to pursue the fugitives in such a country in the dark; but many of them fell in their retreat, and added to the already great number of the slain and wounded. This battle was fought September the 11th, 1777, when the American General was obliged to abandon the city, which he intended to preserve, to the mercy of the conquerors.

As my avocations were principally on board; and as I had no hope of meeting my Maria at Philadelphia, which Earl Cornwallis took possession of soon after, I returned with Lord Howe in the fleet; which sailing down the Chesapeake, bore to the North, and reached the Delaware.

The Admiral found that the Provincials had taken possession of a small station on the east side of the river, which they had fortified. The neglect of securing this place before, proved of bad consequence; for, in an unsuccessful attempt on the Americans, Colonel Dunop of the Hessians, and many brave men lost their lives on the twenty-second of October.

Mud Island too greatly impeded our passage to Philadelphia. A *chevaux-de-frize* carried across the river also, long retarded our progress; in the removal of which, we lost the Augusta, a sixty gun ship, with a sloop, and several small vessels.

However, after incredible labor, the navigation of the river was cleared up to the city, when

when the army landed, and received a plentiful supply of good provision from the farmers of the adjacent villages, who made an excellent market of their commodities, by receiving gold and silver, so much wanted in that, as well as the other provinces.

My first business, as soon as I landed, was to make enquiry after the relations and friends of my Maria, but could gain no certain intelligence. The croaking cry of war now alarmed every party, whilst dread and destruction every where prevailed all over the province, where peace and safety had long reigned.

Here I was informed, that General Washington had made an attack on the British army at German-town, on the fourth of October, having greatly recruited his forces. He surprized the outposts with considerable success, and would have carried his fury through the whole outward lines, had not Major-General Grey, apprised of his design by Sir William Howe, marched a body of troops to their relief. By the intrepid behaviour of

this gallant officer, and that of Lieutenant-Colonel Musgrave, the Americans were forced back with great slaughter.

It was not long after our arrival, before we received an account of the ineffectual expedition of General Burgoyne, and of the unhappy capture of his army on the sixteenth of October, at Saratoga, on the way to Albany.

The dreadful and humiliating circumstances attending this awful captivity, drew tears from every eye, and sighs from every British breast, leaving but little hope of conquering America. Indeed it was stipulated, that the British and Hessian troops, thus captured by General Gates, should march out of the camp with all the honors of war, and their artillery, to a place appointed, where they should pile up their arms, and be allowed a free embarkation and passage from Boston to Europe, on condition of their not serving again in America during the war; the officers to be admitted on parole, and to wear their side arms; but Congress, upon
various

various pretences, afterwards refused to ratify this convention. The troops remained prisoners of war above three years; in which time most of the men, who amounted to upwards of five thousand, at the capitulation, gradually assimilated themselves to the Provincials, and chose to reside in the new world till the storm of war was over.

We remained in comfortable winter quarters in Philadelphia during a long and rigorous winter, in which the inhabitants would have greatly suffered, even amidst our plenty, had not the Quakers in England freighted some ships with necessary articles for their support and relief.

General Washington was now reinforced from the northern army with four thousand men, and lay in a hutted camp at Valley-forge, about twenty miles from the city. Sir William Howe found him too strongly intrenched to admit an attack with any degree of success, and so judged it most adviseable not to disturb him. Mean while this British chieftain, despairing of a reinforcement of

34 THE KENTISH CURATE.

troops from England, and supposing he had lost the confidence of government, solicited his Majesty's permission to withdraw from the command, which he immediately obtained.

“ If Great Britain had paid her General by the job, and not by the day, the business would have been soon settled,” was the opinion of the Hessian commander. That General Howe was a good soldier when engaged against a natural enemy, cannot be denied; but I shall leave others to justify his conduct in America. Let such first observe him deserting the northern army, which in his absence was obliged to surrender at Saratoga; next see him procrastinating the war by sailing round the coast, instead of crossing the country to Philadelphia: then consider how far he put forth his fire effectually against the encamped enemy, within fight, within reach; and lastly, how heroical it was in a lover of his country, to leave her cause in the hour of danger and deep distress!

I myself, as well as the commanders, am
weary.

weary of the war, and long for retirement in the peaceful shades. What are the quarrels of Princes and Provincials to me? I have little left in the old world, and less to lose in the new. If my parents are removed; if my dear Maria is no more mine! then let me wander into a land of oblivion, and mingle with the wild beasts of the forest, to forget all my fond hopes, and calm my troubled soul.

There were a hind scarce tunes his rustic strain,
 Where scarce a pilgrim treads the pathless plain
 Content I'll stray; forget that e'er the tide
 Saw yon majestic structures crown her side;
 Forget that ever my wrapt attention hung,
 Or on the sage's or the poet's tongue,
 Calm and resign'd my humbler lot embrace,
 And pleas'd prefer oblivion to disgrace.

In the course of this winter I contracted an intimacy with a gentleman, who, before the troubles in America, was in a very flourishing situation. He was both a magistrate and a superior officer in the militia. He knew the family of Mr. Bradley, and lamented

ted his return to England before his affairs in that province had been finally settled.

This gentleman resided about twelve miles up the country from Philadelphia. I had an ample opportunity of telling him my story, and the causes that determined me to come to America. He ardently desired that I would make one of his family, teach his children, and remain till affairs wore a better aspect, when he would attend me to South Carolina to find out my father. These overtures, with his promise of settling matters to my wish with Mr. Bradley on his return to Pennsylvania, prevailed on me to remain at his house, assimilate myself to his family, and even become a nominal Provincial.

Mr. Maxfield (for that was the name of my new patron) often indulged me in the evening with his familiar conversation, and strove to alleviate my distresses by a recital of his own. I found him easy and communicative, especially in an hour of serious reflexion, when his generous mind knew no bounds in recording the remarkable interpositions of
divine

divine providence in his favor, both in reclaiming him from error and folly, and redeeming his life from destruction, when under a false imputation of guilt.

His story, which he related to me alone one evening when all the family were wrapt up in sleep, can never be erased from my memory. The reader will be best pleased with it in his own words, and simple manner as follows:

“ I was born in Cornwall, and was receiving a liberal education at an academy, when my parents both died in one day, and left me, their only child, to the wide world, unsettled in principles, and unfinished in my studies. I soon after left the country, having not a single relation there, and pursued my way to London, where an uncle resided, on whose protection I proposed to cast myself.

“ In him I found a friend; for he soon got me into a merchant’s compting-house, where I became well acquainted with business, and accumulated some money. My uncle died,
and

and left me two hundred pounds; and my master, soon after paying the debt of nature, left me one hundred; which two sums, with what I had saved, made four hundred pounds, which I put into the stocks, and procured a place of still greater profit.

“ It happened that one of the oldest clerks, an Irishman, who had long been looked upon as worthy of trust, ran away with nine hundred pounds in bills and notes, most of which he got changed at the bank a few minutes before he was pursued. I chanced at that time to be out upon business for my employer at a banker’s near Temple-bar; and on my return, met with my Hibernian fellow clerk, of whose manœuvre I was unapprised; who informed me that he had forgot to get a bank bill exchanged, and desired me to give him cash for it, that so his urgent business at the banker’s might not be retarded.

“ I readily acquiesced in his request, and gave him three hundred pounds of the cash which I had received for the bill. He said, that he was going to Drummond’s, at Charing-

ing-cross, and having his favorite, Pompey, the house dog with him, proposed to take a walk through St. James's park to Chelsea.

“ I immediately went to the bank and offered the bill for cash. I observed all the clerks staring at me ; and before I could even guess the cause, saw my master at my elbow, with several ill-looking fellows, who seized me by the collar, dragged me into a room, and charged me with a felony, in conjunction with the fugitive clerk.

“ I was surprized to see the dog along with my employer, and innocently said that I thought he had been gone to Chelsea along with the clerk, whom, I said, I had met in Fleet-street, and who had desired me to change the bill which I had just tendered. This threw my master into a passion, who swore that he had got a clew to unravel the whole mystery of iniquity. He ordered the runners of Justice Fielding to keep me in custody, and take me to Bow-street, where he promised to attend my examination.

“ It

40 THE KENTISH CURATE.

“ It is easier to imagine than to express what I felt on the occasion. I was hurried into a coach, hand-bolted, and held fast by two stout men, to whom it was entirely in vain to plead my innocence; for one of the fellows exclaimed, “ D——me, all your sort are innocent till your are taken, and never own any thing till the report is made to his Majesty.”

“ When I came before Fielding, his worship advised my master to let one of his mirridons tie a long string to the dog, and suffer him to run which way he liked, in order to scent out the runaway clerk. This was done. The dog, as I afterwards learned, took a direction to Oxford road, ran into an inn, and wagged his tail with remarkable fondness at the fugitive, whom the runner secured on suspicion, and brought to Bow-street during my examination.

“ On being searched, not a single bill or note that had been stolen was found on him, and but little cash. My master informed the magistrate, that he was the person suspected, and

and whom the clerks at the Bank had described. These clerks, who soon came, swore positively to his person, and declared that he had, the same morning, changed the notes and bills which they produced, and which the merchant immediately identified as his property.

“The fellow, whose name was Murphy, threw the whole upon me, asserting that he had these bills from me, for whom he got them exchanged at the Bank. My artless story was but ill attended to. The banker, at whose house I had been about business, informed the justice that I received four hundred pounds of his clerk that morning by order of the merchant. I was now searched, but only one hundred pounds were found in my possession.

“It was vain for me to appeal to the conscience of the clerk. He maintained his integrity with an effrontery unparalleled. I appealed to God. The justice and merchant remained unmoved. All my cries and intreaties could not keep me from prison. The
commitments

commitments were made out; I was conducted to Tothil-fields bridewell, and Murphey to Clerkenwell, for trial at next session.

“The same plea had no effect on the callous keeper of the prison; for he ordered me to be heavily ironed, and thrown into the common dungeon for the present, till my friend arrived with money to lighten my darkness and affliction.

“This keeper, however, being a canting, hypocritical, methodistical mercenary, discovering that I had money in the stocks, prevailed upon me to sell out, to live more comfortably, and be prepared to defend myself upon trial, by retaining able counsel. I intrusted the money in the hands of a tradesman in the city, whom I thought responsible, and who appeared to commiserate me, as an innocent oppressed person.

“I was removed to Newgate in a coach, and met my hardened fellow clerk in that dismal dungeon. Instead of being softened into pity, I discovered him most abominably
abandoned

abandoned. He vowed that he would hang me to save himself; or if he could not meet mercy, he declared that he would not mind dying in my company. A while I endeavored to remonstrate with this monster, till even all the veteran sons of wickedness in the gaol deplored my situation. He continued exulting in his resolution, till I, urged on by several of the prisoners, dragged him into the hall and beat him without mercy, amidst the motly assembly.

“ This enraged the keeper, to whom the affair was falsely reported, who locked me up in one of the cells, as a dangerous person, where I remained till the day of trial, hardly being suffered to see my city friend, or receive any more than the bare prison allowance.

“ My friend employed an eminent attorney, who sent a celebrated advocate to plead for me on any point of law that could be urged in my favor, and cross examine the witnesses.

“ Murphy and me were put to the bar,
and

and both pleaded not guilty to the charge. Facts appeared plain against us both. An attempt was made by my counsel (who, I believe, was persuaded of my innocence) to discover a flaw in the indictment; but what he urged was overruled by the court. Murphey in his defence threw the whole guilt upon me. We both had a cloud of witnesses to our good characters. The Judge gave his charge. I cannot say judiciously, and the jury, who might easily have seen through the affair, pronounced both guilty.

“ This being a capital felony, we received sentence of death the last day of the session, and were exhorted by the recorder to lose no time in preparing for eternity, as we had no reason to expect mercy of any other than the supreme all-merciful Judge.

“ I cried, I am quite innocent of the crime! My fellow prisoner is the person who gave me the bill, as I declared on my trial! Will you venture to take away the life of an innocent man, without farther enquiry into the case? God, the just Ruler of the Universe, who

who holds in his hand the hearts of Kings and Judges, will not suffer such injustice under his righteous administration.

“ *Take him away!* was all the reply of the court. I was conducted to a cell separate from my accuser, as dangerous. Good Heaven! This was too much for humanity.

“ My master never once visited me in my affliction. The rest of the clerks appeared not after the trial; and even the friend, with whom I had intrusted my all, deserted me amidst my accumulated calamities.

“ In this dark dismal dungeon, I found means to draw up a petition to the king, with all the pathetic feelings that distress could inspire; but alas! I could get nobody to present it. I wrote likewise to the recorder; but all my efforts were ineffectual. The report was made, and I was included in the dead warrant as well as Murphey.

“ I still maintained my original plea, against all that the ordinary of Newgate could urge. My companion now appeared a Roman Catholic, and refused to have any concern

46 THE KENTISH CURATE.

cern with our prayers. I strove with all the vehemence I could, to prevail on him to own that I was an injured, poor, helpless man. He remained obdurate; and I laid my account to meet the King of Terrors with all the resolution and fortitude that can attend a man who has not guilt to encounter; yet I confessed to the Almighty that I had frequently offended his divine goodness, and forsaken the fountain of happiness, whilst I implored his mercy; and he was pleased to dispose the king to respite me from the devouring jaws of death at the place of execution, and melting, at that moment, the stoney heart of the Hibernian criminal clerk, forced him to confess me an innocent man, before he launched into the eternal invisible world.

“ The noise of the numerous spectators was imitative of thunder; but to me it soon seemed remote. I fell into a swoon, and was almost quite insensible when I was put into a coach, and remained so all the way back to the prison, when I found that the respite was but for seven days: But it was soon, after the clerk's

clerk's confession was known, that I was respited during the royal pleasure, and returned to the common gaol.

“ I now sent to my friend, the tradesman, to have my money returned to the stocks, or applied for the purpose of either regaining my liberty, by making fresh friends, or making my future life less disagreeable in gaol, if I was doomed to remain much longer. But he never came ; and as I could not force him to refund, I was obliged to wait patiently the determination of providence. Whilst I remained in that place of captivity, I was informed that my false friend was become a bankrupt ; so that all my hope, arising from the fruits of my past labor, was vanished.

“ I sent to the merchant, my late employer, beseeching him to interfere in the farther favor of a distressed guiltless man ; having nothing to live upon in a pestilentious prison but a scanty morsel of bread, which he is obliged to moisten with water. All the answer that he returned was this : “ The case yet to us remains doubtful. Be thankful that
your

your life is preserved, and prepare for a voyage to America, where we trust you will learn to do well, on a due reflection on your past errors.

“ Thus I remained above six months during a rigorous winter, and then was carried down, loaded with chains and infamy, to the water side at Black Friars; put into a close lighter with a number of felons, and conducted on board the *Justitia* transport vessel, bound for Virginia.

“ I shall not attempt to describe my hardships and sufferings at sea, during a two month’s voyage, or depict the cruelties of the prisoners on board. I could never associate with such in their wickedness, having all along, in the course of my unmerited confinement, kept myself as much at a distance as I could from such company. For this I suffered much at sea, not unknown to the captain; who, on our arrival, enquired into my character, and disposed of me to an eminent planter, which removed me far enough from such people.

“ The

“ The planter proved a man of great compassion, and listened to the tale of my deep distress with much attention. Finding me diligent and faithful in his business, both as a labourer and an overseer, he soon gave me my freedom, and his fair daughter, with a considerable fortune into the bargain. At his death I succeeded to the estate, greatly improved it, and brought up my family thus far in credit and repute, by the blessing of heaven upon my endeavors.

“ After all my afflictions, the Almighty was pleased to honor me in the sight of the Provincials. I was made a magistrate by the late British Governor of that province, where my plantation was. To defend that, the liberties of this land, and my property in this province, I took up arms in the service of Congress, and now bear a commission for that purpose. I shall not even try to bring you over to my principles. Your weapons are not carnal, but spiritual. Use these properly. Remain in this province till the storm is over, and may the same Almighty goodness

VOL. IV. D

ness which saved me from death, and brought me to happiness and plenty, by a way which I knew not, also deliver you, young man, from all your perplexing fears and anxieties, and bestow on you that tranquillity of mind which I feel, and ever experienced amidst all my calamities."

This hospitable habitation of Mr. Maxfield proved truly a happy asylum to me during the winter. During that time I had frequent opportunities of reading the English news-papers, and was informed of what was going on in parliament, which met on the second of November. The King's speech turned chiefly on the necessity of carrying on the war in America. Earl Chatham very ably opposed the address, which is generally deemed the echo of the sentiments from the throne.

He said, "It is a perilous and tremendous moment, and not a time for adulation. It is necessary to dispel the darkness and delusion which envelopes the throne, and to display, in its full danger and native colours, the

the ruin that is brought to our doors. The measures which have been pursued, have brought this late flourishing empire to ruin and contempt. Not only the power and strength of this country are wasting and expiring, but her well-earned glories, her true honor and substantial dignity, are sacrificed. France, my Lords, has insulted you : she has encouraged and sustained America ; and whether America be wrong or right, the dignity of this country ought to spurn at the officious insult of French interference.

“ The ministers and ambassadors of those who are called rebels and enemies, are in Paris : in Paris they transact the reciprocal interests of America and France. Can there be a more mortifying insult ? Can even *our* ministers sustain a more humiliating disgrace ? Do they dare to resent it ? Do they presume even to hint a vindication of their honor, and the dignity of the state, by requiring the dismissal of the plenipotentiaries of America ?

“ Such is the degradation to which they
D 2 have

have reduced the glories of England. The people, whom they affected to call contemptible rebels, but whose growing power has at last obtained the name of enemies; the country with whom they have engaged this country in war, and against whom they now command our implicit support: this people, despised as rebels, or acknowledged as enemies, are abetted against us, supplied with every military store, their interests consulted, and their ambassadors entertained by our inveterate enemy! and our ministers dare not interpose with dignity and effect. Is this the honor of a great kingdom? Is this the indignant spirit of England, who but yesterday gave law to the house of Bourbon?

“ During three campaigns, we have done nothing, and suffered much; besides perhaps the total loss of the northern force*. You may

* It would seem from this, that his Lordship had already received advice of the capture of Gen. Burgoyne, for the news arrived in England within a fortnight after. Or if we consider this part of his speech as a prediction

may swell every expence and every effort still more extravagantly; pile and accumulate every assistance you can buy or borrow; traffic and barter with every little pitiful German potentate, your efforts are for ever vain and impotent; doubly so from this mercenary aid on which you rely, for it imitates to an incurable resentment, the minds of your enemies, by over-running them with the mercenary sons of rapine and plunder, devoting them and their possessions to the rapacity of hierling cruelty.

“ Your own army is infected with the contagion of these illiberal allies: the spirit of plunder and of rapine is gone forth amongst them: your discipline is deeply wounded. Whilst this is notoriously your sinking situation, America grows and flourishes: while your strength and discipline is lowered, theirs rises and improves. Why too shall the minister delegate to the merciless Indian the defence of disputed rights, and to wage the
 dictation, it shews the vast sagacity of his mind, which was well aware of the perilous situation of the British army.

4 THE KENTISH CURATE.

horrors of a barbarous war against our brethren? Our army, familiarized to the horrid scenes of savage cruelty, can no longer boast of the noble and generous principles which dignify a soldier.

“No man wishes more for the dependence of America than myself. America is the fountain of our wealth, the nerve of our strength, the nursery and basis of our naval power. It is our duty, therefore, if we wish to save our country, seriously to endeavor the recovery of these beneficial subjects: and in this perilous crisis, perhaps the present moment may be the only one in which we can hope for success.”

Had his Lordship's proposed amendment to the address been attended to, America, though far gone, might have been recovered. He proposed an immediate cessation of hostilities, and the commencement of a treaty to restore peace and liberty to the colonies, strength and happiness to England.—But what sings the poet.

When

When rival nations great in arms,
 Great in pow'r, in glory great,
 Fill the world with war's alarms,
 And breath a temporary hate,

The hostile storms but rage a while,
 And the tir'd contest ends:

But ah! how hard to reconcile

The foes that *once were friends*?

Each hasty word, each look unkind,

Each distant hint that seems to mean

A something lurking in the mind,

Which always longs to lurk unseen;

Each shadow of a shade offends

Th' embitter'd foes who once were friends.

Yes, patriots may propose; parliament may accede to their terms, and the minister may endeavor to execute them, but HE who rules in the raging of the sea, and stills the madness of the people, alone can make nations cease to war against nations, and destroy the enmity of those who have long before lived in habits of the greatest friendship. For as the bard proceeds to sing,

D 4

That

That pow'r alone who fram'd the soul,
 And bade the springs of passion play,
 Can all the jarring strings controul,
 And form on discord concord's sway.

'Tis He alone whose breath of love
 Did o'er the world of waters move,
 Whose touch the mountains bend,
 Whose word from darkness call'd forth light;
 'Tis He alone can re-unite
 The foes who once were friends.

To him, O Britain, bow the knee!
 His awful, his august decree,
 Ye rebel tribes adore!
 Forgive at once, and be forgiven,
 Ope in each breast a little heaven,
 And discord is no more.

The last stanza of Mr. Whitehead, whilst it points to a consummation most devoutly to be wished, marks out the best plan for accomplishing the end desired. Let each party cast off all pomp and pride, and humble themselves before the great Ruler of the world. It is ambition that fires the minds of princes, who, rather than not spread wide their conquests, and enslave the bodies and souls

souls of men, care not to be at all. Let them consider, that they are the servants of the Almighty: and let them remember, they are also the servants of the people, without whom they would be but cyphers in society. The *meek*, and not the *proud*, shall inherit the earth. A proud minister is hateful to God and man. The oppressor must be opposed; and though he may be long employed by providence as a rod to correct the people, yet as soon as the end is obtained, that instrument shall be destroyed.

There were faults on both sides of the Trojan towers. There were faults on both sides the Atlantic ocean. If the monarch, and the revolted millions would but deign to meet in mildness, and suffer cool reason to resume her throne, soon would all the unhappy divisions cease: soon would Britain and her colonies cordially unite in a covenant of mutual defence against the common foe, the French, who are coming into America like a flood, to sweep away the basis of that religion and liberty which we love!

58 THE KENTISH CURATE:

Though General Washington with his army lay quiet in the camp amidst the rigorous days of winter, yet Congress remained active in forming an alliance with France. That rival European kingdom had meditated this from the beginning of the American troubles, and found it profitable to fish in troubled water. A treaty of commerce accordingly was signed by the American Plenipotentiaries, and the Count de Vergennes, the French minister for foreign affairs, on the 30th of January, 1778, a day memorable for freedom in the death of a tyrant. The week after a treaty of alliance was executed. The prophecy of Earl Chatham was now fulfilled, and the British ministry disclaimed any knowledge of these transactions.

But on the 17th of February, Lord North carried in his two bills for a reconciliation with America, and proposed to give up to the colonists all, and even much more than they at the first required. The act of parliament which laid a tax on tea, and brought into the new world a world of woe, was repealed

pealed, and commissioners were appointed with power to treat with the Congress by name, as if it were a legal body.

This was giving authenticity to a power hitherto deemed the height of usurpation, so as to suppose its acts and concessions binding on America. The commissioners were also empowered to treat with any of the Provincial assemblies upon their new constitution, and with any individuals in their civil capacities or military commands; with General Washington, or any other officer, for whose head a reward had not long before been offered.

The commissioners had a power to order a suspension of arms; to grant all sorts of pardons, immunities and rewards; to suspend the operation of all laws, and restore all the colonies, or any of them, to the form of their ancient constitution. These commissioners were, the Earl of Carlisle, Mr. Eden, Governor Johnstone, and the commanders of the fleet and land forces in America. They arrived at Philadelphia early in June, and immediately

mediately forwarded a letter, the two acts of parliament, and other credentials to Mr. Laurens the president of the Congress, proposing in effect, that America should make her own terms; laying, (as a celebrated orator afterwards expressed himself) the crown, the peerage, and the commons of Great Britain, at the feet of the American Congress."

In the name of his Britannic Majesty, they proposed an immediate cessation of hostilities both by land and sea. That no military force should be maintained in any part of America without the consent of a General Congress, or of the Provincial assemblies. That the most unrestrained freedom should be given to the American trade. They offered to concur in measures tending to discharge the debt contracted by Congress, and which might in the mean time raise the credit and value of the paper circulation. That the union thus restored should be continued by a reciprocal deputation of agents from the respective states, who should have the privilege of a seat and voice in the parliament of Great Britain; or
if

if such agents were sent from Britain, that they should have a seat and voice in the assemblies of the different states.

But all these ample and unlimited overtures came too late.. Mr. Silus Deane had reached York town from Paris, with a ratification of the two treaties between the court of Versailles, and the thirteen united states of America, a whole month before; and they who ran in a race, ran all, but one obtains the prize. The Congress, as a body, remained inflexible; recourse was therefore had to individuals, and offers of large sums, and the highest posts were made, without effect, to the leading men in America. The offers made by Governor Johnstone to General Reed, an American commander, were more specific than the overtures made to Washington and Laurens; for he held out ten thousand pounds, and any office he pleased in the colonies for his services. The General returned for answer, "I am not worth purchasing; but such as I am, the King of Great Britain is not rich enough to do it."

Mr.

Mr. Eden now observing that all the overtures which he and the other Commissioners could make to the colonies were rejected, produced his orders from the American secretary to Sir Henry Clinton, now commander in chief, for evacuating Philadelphia, crossing the Delaware, and marching the army through the Jerseys to New-York. Accordingly the British army passed the river on the 18th of June, after large sums had been lavishly expended in constructing works for the security of the city, thus ignominiously abandoned to the enemy.

From this time the American war became utterly hopeless, and this dereliction of territory of friends and reputation, extinguished every latent propensity in the minds of the Americans in favor of reconciliation.

The British army on leaving Philadelphia could not return to New-York by sea; for Admiral Howe, was far removed round the coast, and the French fleet, under the conduct of Count d'Estaing, was approaching the new world. The only road to which the baggage
and

and stores could proceed was narrow, so that the waggons, artillery, and camp equipage, extended 12 miles. Yet the General found means to defend the whole from all attempts made by Washington and his army.

Had General Howe not lost the golden opportunity of conquering America the preceding year, by crossing the Delaware, and carrying destruction without delay on the enemy, Britain would not have met the disgrace which the long winter and spring were maturing. But the English army is gone from the city. I have no concern in the war. I came not to America to draw the sword, or attempt to destroy any of the natives, and the natives shall have no cause to prove inimical to me.

My life still shall the tender care

Of Providence defend;

While delegated angels round

Their guardian wings extend,

When through creation's vast expanse,

The last dread thunders roll,

Untune

64 THE KENTISH CURATE.

Untune the concord of the spheres,
And shake the rising soul.

Unmov'd may I the final storm
Of jarring worlds survey,
That ushers in the glad serene
Of everlasting day.

Thro' nature's ever varying scene,
By different ways pursu'd,
The one eternal end of heaven
Is universal good...

I am now a temporary inhabitant of the finest province in the western world, surrounded with all the glories of summer, and within sight of the great ocean. It is now morning, and not long past the sweet hour of prime. I am retired to the rural shades of a village, on a little rising hill, which commands, to the south and west, the pleasant prospect of a beautiful landscape. The sky is unclouded, and the air serene. The sun has risen above the horizon, and the birds begin their matin songs. The few remaining rustic hinds go forth to their labour; the aged man, and the blooming damsels approach the fair field,

field, to obtain health and gladness, whilst the whole face of creation seems to smile, regardless of the ruful war, and all its horrors.

I feel an uncommon glow of gratitude pervading my heart, as I view this luxuriant scene. Surely goodness has followed me to this calm retreat. My imagination is transported to rapture, as the Ruler of day ascends the azure steep of heaven, to gladden the tribes of Adam in his course around the vast bending arch.

Who formed this golden globe, that eye and soul of our system? Who bade this bright luminary cherish and enliven all things by beautiful beams? What power impressed such constant regularity on its motion? Daily, at certain moments, it rises and sets. Yearly, at a precise period, it comes to a certain point. How convenient is its station in these visible heavens, dispensing light and heat impartially to all. Its beams burn not the earth, nor does it suffer the inhabitants of the world to be frozen to death in its absence. Whose wisdom
winded.

66 THE KENTISH CURATE.

winded up the maffy machine, fo as never to ceafe its annual and diurnal round? * Is the fun the deity itfelf, as the erring nations fondly dream? No: it is but a creature of the *uncreated* Supreme, his faithful witnefs in the firmament, formed to proclaim his praife to every planet: nor is there a nation which has not heard its voice; which, as the royal Pfalmift fays, “is gone forth to all the earth, and its found to the ends of the world.”

“The glorious fun, from day to day,

“Does his Creator’s power difplay,

“And publifhes to ev’ry land

“The work of an Almighty hand.”

But this fun, which beftows heat and light to our world, and the other planets in their courfes round their orbits, is but *one* of the glorious witneffes of the Almighty’s wifdom and goodnefs. The immense temple of the Great Supreme is extended through all fpace,

* I fpeak accordingly to common obfervation, being well aware, that the new fyftem of aftronomy fupposes the fun to be a fixed body.

and

and is filled with innumerable monuments of benevolence. Seized in contemplation, on the roving wings of fancy, I leave this golden orb and its worlds, and launch into the trackless path of infinite space, where ten thousand suns, and ten times ten thousand worlds revolve in ether. Higher yet would I raise my warm imagination, and behold another heaven, and see suns and systems uncounted; all perfectly regular and invariable in their motion, and performing their several parts in the universe at the fiat of infinite goodness; declaring the glory of the LORD, and demonstrating his omnipotence!

“What though nor real voice nor sound,

“Amid their radiant orbs be found,

“In reason’s ear they all rejoice,

“And utter forth a glorious voice;

“For ever singing as they shine,

“*The hand that made us is divine.*”

His goodness is over all his works, and by his tender care all things are preserved. For near 6000 years has our system performed its revolutions, without the least variation;
 nor

nor shall the sun and planets cease to roll, until, at the command of their almighty Maker, the subtile energy of attraction and repulsion cease to operate. But, as Pope says,

“ Though worlds unnumbered to the God be known,
’Tis ours to trace him only in our own.”

Who girded the great globe with the bandage of the atmosphere? Who bestowed that elasticity on the air, to make it profitable for animal life? its motion is the medium of sound; its transparency admits the rays of the sun, and conveys them almost instantaneously to the earth, through a space of many millions of miles. Its agitation affords winds for sailing on the sea. It keeps the thunder, the lightening, the tempests, and hail in store for the war of elements! It is a reservoir for water in the cisterns of the clouds, and keeps it in safety, till necessary to be dispersed in gentle rains, or distilled as small dew on the tender grass, and the fragrant flowers of the field.

What

THE KENTISH CURATE. 69

What consummate skill taught yonder copious river to wind round those verdent pastures, where the lowing cattle crop the fragrant flowers from its enamelled margin, and slake their parching thirst from the little curling streams that roll down from the rising hills, having laved the borders of these green pastures, where the bleating herds feed, and the lambkins play?

Whose kind benevolent hand clothed these gorgeous meadows, and those hills, with delightful verdure? Whose rich bounty bestows fertility to the fields, and fills the furrows with the golden grain around the landscape? Even the Parent of Good, who causes the fountains to spring from the everlasting hills, and makes the vallies glad with the refreshing former and latter rain.

The ripened corn in yonder fertile field, has now acquired a yellow hue, and soon will demand the rustic's aid to cut it down, and fill the granaries with the golden store for another winter. The harvest is ripe; but where are the husbandmen to employ their sickles?

sickles? Yonder encamped on the plain with Washington, waiting for the war, and looking for help from a far country.

I cast my eye on the surface of the great deep to the east, and see the floating castles of the contending parties, whilst the fate of America depends on the dread event of the battle.

But I was suddenly interrupted in my meditation by the approach of a venerable aged man; who, coming up the hill to my recluse shade, thus addressed me:

“Ah! young man, are you thus wrapt up in solemn solitary thought, whilst the fleets of Great Britain and France are eagerly engaged on the sea?”

Recovering myself, I told him, that on that very theme, tremendous as it is, I was actually contemplating at the instant when he disturbed me. He sat down on the bank beneath a wide spreading tree, sighed, and shed tears in abundance. I enquired the cause of his complaint and seeming sorrow, and requested him to communicate his mind to me

me without reserve, or the least dread. It was a considerable time before I could meet his reply, and all that he said was, “ I was once a soldier, but now, alas ! a poor plebean, obliged to stay at home, whilst I should be away in the wars.”

For every thing there is a season, I said, and the time of you warfare being over, it is fit you should enjoy the comforts of life at home in the evening of your days.

Now recovered from his perturbation, the stranger grew more familiar, and entered on a general discourse with me about the troubles in America ; lamenting that the times were so changed from George the first’s days to these ; that the colonists should call in the aid of the common enemy against Britons, with whom they so bravely fought in the last war.

I learned that he had not long left off the soldier ; for he assured me that he was present in the Provincial army at the capture of Burgoyne at Saratoga, and since, had been engaged

gaged against the Indians in the back settlements.

Being much prepossessed in opinion, that the person to whom I was talking was something more than a common man, I solicited him to accompany me to the house of my kind patron, to get some refreshment before he pursued his tedious journey to South Carolina, to which province he informed me he was bound.

We accordingly walked down the hill to the village. I introduced the warrior to my friend, and he heartily made him welcome.

After breakfast, I found the stranger free and ready to open his mind. At the request of my patron, he thus proceeded, the good mistress, and her sons, my pupils, being also present.

“ Having been a serjeant during the greatest part of the last war in America, I was chosen as a fit person to teach the young men in the province where I resided at the beginning of the present troubles. My age and infirmities, however, precluded me from active service

service till the last campaign, when I would no longer stay behind, but face the foes of our freedom in the field, and do my oppressed country all the good in my power.

“ I lay in ambush with a party in the several situations through which General Burgoyne marched, and frequently surrounded parties who were sent out to forage. These people appeared not sorry for their captivity. They were heartily tired of their commander’s wild-goose chase, and entertained but little hope of seeing him accomplish his purpose of meeting an army from New-York, and cutting off all communication with the North and South provinces. From these soldiers I learned the situation and strength of the British army, and communicated such intelligence to my superiors.

“ I intercepted three private messengers from the British army under General Clinton, who was sailing up Hudson’s river, in order to meet Burgoyne at Albany. I carried them to our camp, where they were examined by the officers, and opened the

whole business of their hazardous undertaking.

“The intelligence which these messengers afforded, proved ruinous to the Royal cause; for the militia, and the whole northern army, united to oppose the progress of Burgoyne. On the seventh of last October, General Arnold gave battle to the British adventurer, and obliged him to retreat to the camp, after having lost many men, killed, wounded, and taken prisoners. We attacked the British camp with great fury, and were quite sanguine in our expectation of gaining a complete conquest that day; but General Arnold received a dangerous wound in the height of the engagement, which being perceived by the enemy, they redoubled their exertions, and drove us back with considerable loss.

“I carried off with my party a wounded officer of the Royal army, Major Ackland, who commanded the grenadiers in the action, and whose personal bravery was conspicuous on several occasions. General Gates, to whom the chief command devolved, ordered me to
use

use the Major with the utmost tenderness and humanity, and to extend the same care to all the prisoners. Accordingly he was dressed by the surgeon, and conducted to a commodious tent, near the river. Having furnished the captives with every necessary, and set a guard over them, I retired to rest my weary aged limbs, after the fatigues of the day.

“ I arose at day-break, and revisited the prisoners; when I was informed, by a centinel on the out posts, that there was a party, which he supposed to be spies, in a little boat which came down the river just as I retired, and remained all night not far from shore.

“ I advanced to the side of the water with a guard, hailed the vessel, and demanded the business of the company on board. A gentleman in a clerical habit stood up, and offering a flag of truce, informed me that he was come with a lady from the royal camp, by leave of General Burgoyne, from whom he had a letter directed to General Gates, in order that she may obtain leave to attend her wounded husband, Major Ackland.

“I immediately received the party on shore, lady Harriet Ackland, Mr. Brudenell, the chaplain of the royal artillery, a young woman servant to the lady, and the Major’s valet-de chambre, and accompanied them to the head quarters, introducing them to General Gates himself, as not venturing to shew them the prisoner without his express orders.

The lady appeared much fatigued and dejected, and I could perceive that she was also in a fair way of soon becoming a mother in America. This caused us to use her with the utmost tenderness, and I soon saw that the General, though short-sighted, made the same observation.

“She delivered a letter, fell down on her knees, and cried bitterly. The General himself lifted her up, and bade her cast off her sorrow, for the brave Major, her husband, was safe, and likely to recover of his wounds.

“The dear amiable lady was too much agitated to make any reply, but sat down in the tent, and again cried.

“The reverend gentleman then took occasion

caſion to draw a picture of the lady's ſufferings during the campaign, the outlines of which yet remains viſible to my mind's eye. It is but a kind of rough ſketch, but the colouring is ſtrong and ſtriking.

Lady Harriet, in the year 1776, accompanied her huſband to Canada; and during the ſeverity of that winter, and in the different extremities of ſeaſons, traversed a ſpace of ſome thouſand miles. Often in want of food: parched by the intense heat of the climate in ſummer, and frozen for months together in the winter, ſhe proceeded to attend her ſick huſband in a poor cheerleſs cottage, at Chamblee, to adminiſter that conſolation that her ſympathy could inſpire, and preſent thoſe cordials which the camp afforded.

“ The royal army beſieging Ticonderago: the beginning of next year, the fatigues and hazards expected by the General, urged him to reſtrain this lady from attending her huſband. But on the day following the conqueſt of that fort, hearing that the Major was

much wounded, she would no longer stay behind, but crossed the Lake Champlain to join him; and so, as soon as he recovered, followed his fortune through the campaign.

At Fort Edward, the artificers of the artillery constructed a two-wheeled tumbril for Lady Harriet, in which she proceeded with the camp in its progress to Albany. The British grenadiers, which were attached to General Frazer's corps, and consequently were always the most advanced in the army, were commanded by Major Ackland. In their several situations, they seldom slept out of their cloaths. A tent in which the Major and his lady lay suddenly took fire. An orderly serjeant of the grenadiers, with much hazard of his life, dragged out the Major; at which instant the lady, not perfectly awake, and unknowing what she did, providentially withdrew from the tent, by creeping under the back part. The first object she saw upon the recovery of her senses, was the Major on the other side, and in the fire searching for her. The serjeant again saved

saved him, but not without the Major being severely burned in the face. Every thing they had with them in the tent was consumed.

“ This accident, terrible as it truly was, altered not the steady purpose of our fair heroine ; for she still continued her progress with the army, and passed Hudson’s river with her husband, discovering the utmost resolution and cheerfulness.

“ Such a rare example of conjugal love, and true affection, is well worthy your notice. Love certainly is stronger than death, and many waters, nay even the floods, cannot quench that sacred flame.

“ Still was her unparalleled fortitude to meet new trials. Indeed virtue is not virtue untried ; and had Lady Harriet remained in ease and affluence in England, her affection for the brave Major, her beloved husband, might never have been known. September the 19th, the grenadiers, in their march, were liable, every moment, to action. The enemy appeared all the way within

fight, and in an advancing posture. In this situation of imminent danger, the Major directed his lady to follow the rear of the artillery and baggage, then less exposed. She found herself near a little uninhabited hut, and there alighted from her little carriage; but the action soon became general, and the surgeons of the hospital took possession of the same hut, to be ready to assist the wounded.

“ The noise of the cannon and musquetry from the post of her husband, lasted for four hours. She had then three female companions with her, the Baroness of Reidesel, and the wives of two British officers, Major Harnage, and Lieutenant Reynell. These ladies did not long yield consolation to our heroine. Major Harnage was soon brought into the place badly wounded, and engrossed the whole care of his lady; and the news soon after arrived, that Lieutenant Reynell was killed by a ball. What must Lady Harriet now have felt in her tender bosom for her husband, so much exposed to the enemy?

“ On

“ On the 7th of October, she was again exposed to the hearing of the whole action, when the British troops were defeated, and her husband wounded and taken prisoner. The next day she solicited General Burgoyne to suffer her, if not interfering with his design, to attend her husband, by passing to the camp of the enemy. When I say the British troops were defeated, I allude to the beginning of the action, in which, after General Arnold was wounded, and the American troops repulsed.

“ But how shall I attempt to describe the scene of mutual affection when our heroine met the Major her husband. I am certain greater love prevailed not in the breast of the amiable Eleanor of England, when, in the crusades with her husband, afterwards the mighty monarch of that kingdom, she saved his life at the hazard of her own, by sucking the poison which the envenomed arrow had conveyed into his wound.

“ Lady Harriet, in little more than a week, beheld the captivity of the whole Bri-

tish army at Saratoga; the humiliating circumstances attending which, would be too painful for me to describe. Indeed, we had no opportunity of looking on during the degradation; for General Gates ordered the Provincial army to be drawn off to a convenient distance at the time when the captives piled up their arms by the side of the river.

“As I was active and diligent in the service all the time of Burgoyne’s approach to Albany, and always found means to mar the purpose of intelligence from the army at New-York, Congress have been pleased to approve my conduct, dismiss me from the arduous service in the field, and settle an handsome salary upon me for life. I am now travelling to South Carolina, where I shall have land allotted me to live upon, and so spend the residue of my days in peace and serenity.”

My worthy patron heard the tale of the soldier with great attention, whilst his wife wept at the recital of the calamities which wild war had brought on Major Ackland
and

and his lady. He ordered a homely treat to be prepared for the aged stranger, and meanwhile, in his turn, entertained us with the following story:

“ Having long lived on the back settlements near the great lakes in my youthful days, I had ample opportunity of observing the manners of the Indian tribes; and will first take opportunity to point out an act of female heroism which perhaps never was matched in ancient or modern history; and though the story may appear in the air of a romance, yet I can avouch for its veracity.

“ No people in the world are more cautious in conducting their captives during their march, than the Indians. In the day time, if they are marching over land, the prisoners are held by some of the victorious party; but when they travel by water, they chain the unhappy victims of their revenge to the canoe. In the night season, they commonly stretch them on the ground quite naked, with their legs, arms, and neck fastened to hooks fixed in the ground. Cords were also tied to
their

their arms or legs, which are held by the guard, who, if he chances to sleep, instantly awakes at the least motion of them.

“ But though such precautions are taken by the successful Indians, there is a remarkable instance of their proving ineffectual.

“ A band of ten warriors, from Canada, attended by two of their wives, made an irruption into the back settlements of New England. In the neighbourhood of an exterior town, this party committed certain depredations, killed and scalped several people, and took a woman, with her son about twelve years of age, from the place, and so retreated towards their own native country, at three hundred miles distance, carrying off their captives with them.

“ The woman, on the second night of their retreat, formed a resolve to free herself and her son from that dreadful situation. Finding the Indians all asleep, she slipped the cords from her hands, and cautioned her son, whom the conquerors suffered to go unbound, in a
whisper.

whisper, against being surprised, at what she was about to perform.

“ First, she removed with great wariness, the defensive weapons of the Indians which lay by their sides, to a considerable distance. But knowing that it would be impracticable to withdraw with her boy so far as not to be overtaken by the enemy when they awaked, she came to the resolution of killing every one of them.

“ The heroine put one of the tomahawks into the hands of her son, bidding him follow her example ; and taking another herself, fell upon the sleeping party, and instantly dispatched several of them.

“ Her boy, who wanted both strength and resolution, made a feeble stroke at one of them, which awakened him. He was rising, when he received a fatal blow from the woman, which made him sink under the weight of the weapon.

“ All these warriors thus perished under the hands of our heroine, and but one of the Indian women escaped. She next took off
the

the scalps of her conquered enemies, and seizing also those which they were carrying away with them as proofs of their success, she returned with her boy in triumph to the town from whence she had been lately dragged.

“ Her neighbours could hardly believe their senses, when they beheld her, and even when to their astonishment she produced the testimonies of her courage. Her name is recorded in the annals of her province, and there are hundreds living who can testify the fact.

“ Since I observe that this story has commanded attention, I will briefly inform you how the Indians treat their prisoners taken in war.

“ They oblige them to sing a kind of a death-song in the course of their march; which is generally like this: “ I am going to
 “ die; I am about to suffer; but I will bear
 “ the severest tortures which my enemies can
 “ inflict with becoming fortitude. I will
 “ die like a brave man, and I shall then go and
 join

“ join the chiefs who have suffered on the
 “ same account.”

“ These songs subside when the warriors arrive within the hearing of their friends, to whom they communicate their successes in the war by the sound of whoo whoop. The inhabitants of the village issue out to learn the particulars of what they have heard in general terms, and prove mournful or joyous according to the report.

“ On their arrival at the village or camp, the women and children arm themselves with bludgeons and smaller sticks, and form themselves into two ranks, through which the captives are obliged to pass, beating all the way over the head and face. They are next bound hand and foot, till the chiefs hold a council to determine their fate. The decree soon issues out to the chief warrior in the camp, by whom, or under whose direction the torments of death are to be administered to the unhappy victims. Such as are to be saved are confined to the house of grace; or delivered up to the chief of the nation.

“ Prisoners

88 THE KENTISH CURATE.

“ Prisoners far advanced in life, and have acquired great Honor by their warlike deeds, are usually put to the tortures of fire; and such are well known by the azure marks upon their breasts and arms, which are as legible to the Indians as letters are to us. These blue marks, not unlike, perhaps, the painting of the ancient Britons, recorded by Cæsar, are esteemed ornamental, and as the badges of dignity, as much as a star or blue ribbon, when worn by a Lord or a Duke. These marks of heroic actions are made by breaking the skin with the teeth of fish or sharpened flints, dipped in a kind of ink made of the foot of pitch pine. These hieroglyphics they are as fond of displaying in their public assemblies, as any fop can be of shewing his diamond ring, or a lady of fashion her painted face at a ball. These warriors, who bear about with them such indelible signs of their valour and prowess, are honored by suffering death amidst the flames, and dream of passing to the happy regions in a fiery car.

“ They are led to the place of execution,
in

in the centre of the camp or village, stripped, blackened all over the body, and have each the skin of a crow or raven fixed on their heads. They are then bound to a stake, with faggots heaped round them, and obliged for the last time to sing their death song. They commonly recount with an audible voice, all the brave actions they have performed, and exult in the number of enemies they have killed.

“ In this last speech, they even strive to aggravate the cruelties that they have perpetrated, and attempt at the same time to provoke their tormentors to dispatch them sooner.

“ Sometimes all the boys of the village are permitted to amuse themselves with shooting their arrows at the victims. These arrows coming from the bows of such children penetrate not the vital parts; so that the poor wretches stand exposed to such sufferings for sometimes no less than two or three days, without being mortally wounded.

“ One of such unhappy prisoners, I once thus beheld tormented. He sung his warlike adventures.

adventures and enumerated all his stratagems to surprise his foes. He boasted of the scalps he possessed, describing the different barbarous methods by which he had put his prisoners to death. But he particularly dwelt on the cruelties he had practised on such of the kindred of his tormentors as had fallen into his hands."

"You are a set of ignorant old women," said he, "who know not how to put a brave prisoner to death. When I, by my dexterity took some of your warriors prisoners, instead of the trivial punishments which you are inflicting on me, I devised for them the most excruciating torments. Having bound them to the stake, as I am bound, I stuck their bodies full of sharp splinters of turpentine wood, to which, setting fire, I danced round them, and enjoyed the agonizing pangs of the flaming victims."

My patron proceeded to describe the barbarities of these savages, and made me blush for my country, which had called in the aid

of

of such wretches to fight against the sons of Britons. But let me not expose the nakedness of my native land. Human nature in all countries is, and in all ages has been the same. What are the bull-beaters and cock-fighters of Britain better than such miscreants; and those who delight in tormenting a bullock in the streets, or enjoy satisfaction in pelting a poor person in the pillory, would satiate their diabolical lust of revenge, were their enemies tied to stakes and exposed to their rage.

The old soldier, after dinner, proceeded to confirm our opinion of Indian ferocity, by giving a detail of the dreadful massacre at Fort-William-Henry, in the year 1757.

“ I was with General Webb as a volunteer, when he was encamped at Fort Edward, as Commander in North America, and was sent in a detached corps of fifteen hundred men, consisting of English and Provincials, to strengthen the garrison of Fort-William-Henry, against which Mons. Montcalm was proceeding.

“ The

“ The garrison made a gallant defence, but at last was obliged to surrender to the enemy, but permitted to march out with all the honors of war; to be allowed covered waggons to carry their baggage to Fort Edward, and a guard to protect them from the fury of the Indian savages.

“ The garrison consisted of two thousand men, besides women and children, who were drawn up within the lines the morning after the capitulation was signed.

“ We were upon the point of marching off, when a great number of the Indians gathered round and began to plunder. It was not in our power to make any opposition; for though permitted to carry away our arms, we were not allowed a single round of ammunition.

Some of the savages began to attack the sick and wounded, who, not being able to reach the ranks, were quickly dispatched.

“ Hoping, however, that the disturbance would have soon terminated, we began to move, and soon found the front division driven
 ven

ven back, and that we were surrounded by the Indians.

“ We looked in vain for the guard, which the French, by the articles of capitulation, had agreed to allow us. They never appeared. The savages now began to strip every one without exception of their arms and cloaths; and those who resisted, met the weight of their tomahawks.

“ A party of the savages laid hold of me, and stripped off all my cloaths but my breeches, stockings, and shoes, taking all the little money I had about me. I ran to the French centinel who was posted near the place, but soon found that he approved the plan of his chief commander, for he thrust me back to the Indians, calling me an English dog;

“ It was with incredible difficulty that I regained my situation in the rank. I received many blows by the way with different weapons. One of them slightly wounded me in the side, and my flesh was scratched and torn in many places.

“ Having given the signal of the war-hoop,

94 THE KENTISH CURATE.

hoop, the Indians murdered all who were near them without distinction. Men, women, and children, were wantonly and cruelly massacred, and immediately scalped! whilst many of these savages, set on by the French, and by them encouraged in their bloodshed, drank the blood of the slain, as it flowed warm from the wounds of the victims.

“ I formed a resolution to make a vigorous effort, with about thirty of the men, and endeavored to force our way through the the savages. In the execution of this design, we were quickly separated. I was left alone, and being suddenly inspired with uncommon courage, rushed through the Indians with unparalleled resolution. Indeed my life was at stake; my wife and two children had fallen beneath the unrelenting weapons, wielded by these diabolical engines of the French.

“ I had made my way through a crowd, and gained an open field near the side of a forest, when two young Indians overtook me. From one of them I snatched the weapon
pon

pon lifted up to kill me, and with it laid its master flat on the ground. The other savage took to his heels, and I found an opportunity of retiring a considerable way in the wood, where I lay down almost expiring for want of breath, occasioned by running through the perplexed brambles.

“ In this situation I remained in dread of the enemy for three days, without any subsistence, but a few berries which the bushes afforded. I at length, with much difficulty, reached Fort Edward; where, procuring nourishing food, I recovered, in some degree, my usual power, and natural flow of spirits; which, from the various scenes I had unfortunately experienced on account of the critical and perilous danger into which I was plunged, proved a hard struggle, my strength being nearly exhausted.

“ Fifteen hundred were killed or made prisoners by the Indians on that dreadful occasion. These prisoners, many of whom were children, being then afflicted by the small-pox, communicated their malignant distemper

per to their savage captors. These people, not knowing the nature of their malady, plunged themselves into the water, whilst their blood was in a state of fermentation, and died by hundreds. Mons. Montcalm, the French Commander, who had proved unfaithful to the treaty, and who appeared an unconcerned spectator during the massacre, soon after fell on the plains of Quebec."

The soldier here finished his high coloured picture of human nature in its utmost depravity. He was hospitably entertained by my friend all the evening, and next day set out on his journey to South Carolina.

B O O K XV.

I NOW determined to spend a few weeks, in a tour round the province of Philadelphia, with my sensible friend, Mr. Maxfield, in order to view the bright side of the picture of human nature. My patron's eldest son accompanied us; and the weather being fine, the country afforded a pleasant prospect.

We had not travelled far along the side of a large forest, before a small animal, much like a pole-cat, presented itself to the young gentleman. His father having stopped a little behind, the boy asked me if ever I had seen a *Shunk*? I answered in the negative, and was informed that the creature before us was one of them. It has long and shining

VOL. IV. F hair,

hair, variegated with white and black spots. It has a bushy tail, resembling that of a fox, which, like the rest of its body, is varied in colours.

As I was bent on surveying this curious American animal, the young genius rode up to it, and I followed him as far as the thick forest would allow. He alighted, and ran after it with a stick, which he cut from the wood. We soon had both good cause to repent our temerity; for the creature exerted its extraordinary power in self-defence, and ejected from behind a small stream of water, which immediately tainted the air all round. I was almost suffocated with the intolerable stench, and glad to give over my survey. Nothing in nature could be more noisome; and a continuence of such torture to the sense of smelling, would even constitute a hell. I rode on with the utmost dispatch, but still the scent offended my nostrils. The flowers of the fragrant field lost all their delicious smell; and all creation, which so very recently had appeared amiable and cheering to the mind, seemed now despoiled of its charms.

I reached

I reached the banks of a large river, tied my horse to a tree, and strove to remove the effluvia by washing my hands and face. This proved ineffectual. I considered myself as a kind of leper, and resolved to dip in the river seven times, if necessary, as Naaman, the Syrian, did in Jordan, if happily I might, like him, come out clean. I accordingly stripped, jumped into the stream, and came out without the least taint. But when I began to dress, I found that my cloaths were utterly defiled, and smelled as rank of the animal's liquid as ever. This put me in mind of the countless washings and purifications under Jewish œconomy. I saw now that it was not without good reason, that the unclean were commanded to keep without the camp for several days; for, I am certain, if I had been introduced to the company at Ranelagh, the ladies would have been so much offended with my perfumery, that they would not have been so fond of aromatics and essences for the future. The children of

Israel in the wilderness were bitten with fiery serpents, and had recourse for a cure to the serpents of brass, erected on a pole; but these serpents acted not among the encamped tribes, as the *Shunk* did to me in America.

By this time, my good Philadelphian patron, and his son, my pupil, came up to me. The old gentleman laughed, and the boy did not seem to mind his disaster. Mr. Maxfield bade me be content to put on my *sweet-smelling* garments for the present, till I could procure a change of raiment at a friend's house beyond the water. I followed his advice, but soon found that the noisome stench was restored. When I remounted my gelding, the smell increased, and the boy, who regarded the effluvia but little, keeping close to my side, forced me to hold a handkerchief to my nose all the way, whilst my friend proceeded to describe the nature of the animal which had caused all my pain.

“It will be quite necessary,” said my patron, “for your cloaths to be purified in the ground a few days, before you can wear them
in

in company; for were you to attempt preaching in them as they are at present, all your congregation would swear that you had been *shunked*.

“This creature,” continued my friend, “has no other kind of defence bestowed by nature; and indeed needs no other; for the most ferocious dog, in the pursuit of the *Skunk*, will immediately run back when it projects its liquid, the smell of which affects the air for above half a mile in circumference.”

I find by some authors, this animal is called *Enfant du Diable*, the child of the Devil; or *Bête Puante*, the stinking beast. If a drop of the liquid which it emits falls on one's cloaths, they are rendered so disagreeable, that it is impossible ever after to wear them; or if any of it enters a person's eyelids, the pain becomes intolerable for a long time, and perhaps the sight is endangered.

“The smell of the *Shunk*, though thus to be dreaded,” says one, “is not like that of a putrid carcase, but a strong foetid effluvia of musk, which displeases rather from its penetrating power, than from its nauseousness.

It is, notwithstanding, considered as conducive to clear the head, and to raise the spirits."

The river being fordable, we soon got over, and reaching the house of an eminent planter, a quaker : my friend borrowed for me one of his suits, and sent mine to be scowered. I remained in the plain old habit several days ; was hospitably entertained by the master, who, I found, knew Mr. Bradley and my dear Maria, who were now in England, but whose return he expected about the beginning of 1779.

This very sensible quaker informed me, that his ancestors first lived in that province near a hundred years ago, and emigrated from England with Penn the famous founder of government there. Penn was the son of an admiral, who had served under Oliver Cromwell, and the two Stuarts, who succeeded. This son, in consideration of his father's services to government, was rewarded with the possession of a large territory in America, long before discovered, but which had remained, for several reasons, quite neglected.

The

The quakers, at the time of Mr. Penn's emigration, were much oppressed by the Church of England. They refused the payment of tithes, and other ecclesiastical fees, for which they were persecuted by the established clergy without mercy. Persecution was not confined to Rome Pagan, and is not quite confined to the Romish party. The clergy in England may call themselves protestants, and profess unbounded charity; but touch them on the master string, their stipends and church dues, Easter offerings, and tithes of all that you possess, and you will soon learn what spirit they are of.

Two thousand of these good people accompanied Penn to the western world. On his arrival, he signalized himself by acts of humanity, and made his person and principles to be highly esteemed by the surrounding nations.

Not satisfied with the royal grant of his large territory, he determined to make it his own property, by purchasing it of the natives. This made him a favorite of the Americans,

who conceived as great an affection for his colony, thus fairly acquired, as they had conceived an aversion for all those which had been wrested from the rightful proprietors. How different in this case was the conduct of this great man to that of the barbarous Spaniards, who spread depopulation wherever they made their discoveries?

This humane legislator made toleration the basis of his colony. He vested in his family the right of choosing the first governor of the province, but ordained that no profits should accompany his place, except such as should be voluntarily granted, and that he should have no authority without the consent of the people's deputies. To avoid corruption as much as possible, every citizen, who had any concern in any of the acts, was to be an elector, and might be chosen a representative of the rest. To establish a law, a plurality of voices was enough, but a majority of two thirds was necessary to settle a tax.

The governor gave a thousand acres to all those who could afford to pay the sum of
twenty

twenty pounds sterling; and every one who could not obtain for himself, his wife, each of his children above sixteen years old, and each of his servants, fifty acres of land, for the yearly quit rent of a single penny. He established tribunals for the protection of property, and ordained that law and justice should be within the reach of the meanest person. Every district was obliged to choose three arbitrators, to prevent law suits; and judges were strictly forbidden to receive any salary or gratification for their administration of justice; when the people were under the necessity of referring their causes to them.

To prevent, more than to punish crimes, was the chief intent of this philosophical legislator.

To prevent idleness, was to prevent poverty, that source of many evils in society. It was enacted, that every child above twelve should learn a profession, and this regulation was to extend to every condition of life. By this the poor man secured a subsistence, and the rich was shielded against a reverse of fortune.

tune. Labour was entailed on the first man for transgression; but he worked before his fall in Paradise. Indeed, without industry, mankind appears unhappy. Without activity a man is a burthen to himself, as well as the community. Without business, he is a blank in creation; and labour, either in the body or the mind, constitutes his very life, and preserves the machinery of man in motion.

In consequence of Governor Penn's wise regulations, the province of Pennsylvania grew famous and highly esteemed amidst the nations of Indians, and became an object fit to excite the admiration of the world. It was raised to this eminence by moderation and gentleness. War and tumults, which necessarily disturbed the quiet of the other provinces, not purchased of the original proprietors, but violently obtained, were here unknown till the present calamities began.

This province is defended to the east by the ocean; to the north by New-York and New Jersey; to the south by Virginia and Maryland; and to the west by the Indians.

Its

Its coasts are at first very narrow ; but extend gradually to an 120 miles, and its breadth, an 140 miles.

The climate has been much altered by the cultivation of the land, and is naturally wholesome. The sky is pure and serene ; the waters are salubrious and clear, always flowing upon a bed of rock or sand. The seasons here are not immoderate. Winter begins in January, and ends in March, and sometimes sharp enough to freeze the largest river in the province. The spring is carried forward to June, and is truly delightful. The summer is intensely warm sometimes, but is much alleviated by the breezes from the south-west. Sometimes the people of this province are exposed to hurricanes, that blow down their forests ; and violent storms of thunder and lightening often prove injurious to the produce of the country.

The land in many places is fertile, and much improved. It appears to have been overspread formerly with woods. These being cleared, the ground is covered with innumerable

nable herds, and a great variety of fruits, with plantations of flax and hemp, every sort of grain, and many kinds of vegetables. The flowery shrubs that overspread the face of the country, regale the smell with odoriferous perfumes, and fruits of exquisite relish and flavor delight the taste, and afford a most grateful entertainment.

The rains generally fall in torrents towards the south side of Pennsylvania, and then the clouds immediately disperse. Nature here being on so large a scale, that what are called great rivers in Europe, are here considered as little rivulets and creeks. The land is an immense forest in some places, extended on a flat plain, or rising into abrupt ascents, and at length swelling into stupendous mountains, interspersed with rocks and Precipieces, yet covered with venerable trees noary with age, and torn with furious tempests.

Some of these mountains are suddenly broken through by rapid rivers, raging in torrents at the bottom of the tremendous chasm, or
gliding

gliding in awful majestic silence along the deep vallies.

Civil and religious liberty have drawn the people of many nations of Europe to this province. All religions being here tolerated, men of all professions are to be found. The Quakers are most numerous, but there are many Presbyterians, Anabaptists, Methodists, Moravians, Church of England men, and even some Roman Catholics.

The Reverend Mr. Duche is minister of both the English churches in Philadelphia, and his doctrine somewhat accords with that of the Quakers; he was grown their favorite, before the departure of the British troops.

Of the numerous sects which possess this province, it will not be amiss to mention the *Dumplers*, who were founded by a German. Weary of the world, the founder of this party left his native land, to spend the rest of his days in solitude in the new world. Curiosity carried over several of his countrymen, who, pleased with the simplicity of his manners,

ners, and retirement from the world, were induced to settle in the vicinity of his rural cottage.

At length they formed a little Colony called Euphrates, in allusion to the captive Israelites who hung their harps on the willow tree near the river of Babylon.

This little city is pleasantly laid out, and surrounded with mulberry and apple trees. In the centre is a large orchard, bearing all manner of fruits, which they call the fruits of the new Jerusalem. The houses are built of wood coarsely framed, and appear but as temporary shades or tabernacles fixed for a short time in travelling through the wilderness. The whole territory is but about two hundred and fifty acres in extent, and the whole number of these contemplative people is but about five hundred. Each house is three stories high. The men and women live in separate parts of the city, and never see each other but in places of public worship. Their lives are spent in labor, prayer, and sleep. They attend divine service twice every
day

day and night, and every member claims a right, as inspired, to hold forth in public.

Their favorite topics are humility, chastity, temperance, and judgement to come: but though they admit a hell and a paradise, yet they reject the eternity of punishment. They deny original sin, and exalt the dignity of human nature in all their discourses. They administer baptism only to the adult, and imagine that the souls of Christians in another world are employed in reclaiming those who have not died under the gospel.

One may cheat, rob, and abuse them at pleasure, without the dread of retaliation; for they disclaim all law suits, and are quite philosophically regardless of every wrong or insult.

Their dress is even plainer than the quakers. In winter they wear a long white gown, from whence there hangs a hood to answer, as occasion serves, the use of a hat. They wear coarse linen, and thick shoes, sometimes clouted like those of the Gibeonites. Their breeches are uncommonly wide, and look something

112 THE KENTISH CURATE.

Something like Dutch trowsers; and excepting the breeches, the women appear in the same uniform.

The produce of all their labor is deposited in a common stock, to supply the necessities of every individual. They live chiefly upon vegetables, but admit the lawfulness of any other food. Though the sexes live separate at Euphrates, yet they do not renounce matrimony. But when they marry, they leave the city, and form an establishment in the country. These people, though so different from the other parties in the province, continue amicable with all. Indeed a beautiful harmony subsists amongst all the sects; so that the chief city may well bear the name of Philadelphia.

I found the planter, who communicated the above intelligence, to be a person of a generous disposition. I told him the tale of my father and mother as far as it had been communicated to me in England by Dr. Pedigree, and informed him of the principal cause of my coming to America. He advised me to pass
through

through Virginia, and the other provinces, in order to arrive at Charlestown, in South Carolina, where, he said, it was probable my parents still resided, notwithstanding the calamities of war.

In consequence of his kind advice, and promise of apprising me, if I settled in America, of the arrival of Mr. Bradley, and my Maria, the next spring, I was prevailed upon to pursue my journey to the south without farther delay, after having procured a passport from a magistrate.

Mr. Maxfield was extremely uneasy at my resolution, and offered to attend me to the place of my destination, if I would stay till he could settle certain affairs, which at present called upon more immediate attention. But my mind was too much determined to hesitate longer, and all his entreaties were ineffectual to retard my travels.

He then offered to suffer his son to accompany me, that he might be serviceable to me upon the journey, and act as a friend, a companion, a pupil, and a servant. But this I
 objected

objected to, as the lad was but young, and little experienced, and might be exposed to danger, in case we should meet with any of the waring parties in the provinces through which we should pass.

My friend, the Quaker, assured me, that I was welcome to take one of his best horses, and any one of his servants with me; adding, I have just taken into my plantation a young fellow, a British sailor, who says he his weary of the wars on the ocean, and came to seek an asylum in this province during the present storm. "He further informs me," continued the Quaker, "that he is a Scotchman; was impressed into the service, and cannot bear to be forced to kill any of his fellow creatures, but would rather, if necessity required, blow out the brains of his imperious officer, than hurt the enemy."

"An impressed man," said Mr. Maxfield, "is never to be trusted on board. His greatest enemies are those who deprived him of liberty. I wonder that any nation can encourage the impolitic practice of pressing, and

and shudder to think that men are to be found in a land like Britain who are capable of buying or selling the bodies and souls of men."

Curiosity was now kindling in my breast, which incited me to see the marine labourer. We walked up to the side of the orchard, and saw a young man in trowsers and a blue jacket digging with a hoe. "Is this the genius who is to be my companion to Carolina?" said I to the good Quaker. "If you like, you may have him with all my heart," replied my friend.

We had now almost gained the spot where he was working, and the nearer we approached, the more I imagined that I knew him. I was not wrong in my conjecture, for he proved to be no less a person than my old companion, and Caledonian pupil, Kenneth Cockburn.

After many compliments had passed between us, I demanded the reason why he had quitted his ship. He said his vessel was lost in a violent storm off Long Island, where most of the crew perished. He assured me that

he

he firmly believed that the loss was owing to the judgement of heaven upon the captain, who bore a bad character on board; was never pleased but when punishing the pressed men; his chief delight was cruelty, and now, no doubt, he is gone to hell with the witches in a whirlwind, for proper company.

Kenneth proceeded to describe the many hardships he had suffered since we parted, and dwelt particularly on his escape through a country, where, whoever he chanced to meet, must have proved inimical to his liberty. The Provincials would have taken him up as a spy from the enemy; and any of the English soldiers, without hesitation, have considered him as a deserter.

He informed us, that Compté d'Estaing had appeared to approach New-York, but failed in his resolution; and after continuing before Sandy-Hook ten days, directed his course to Rhode Island, to reduce it, in conjunction with General Sullivan, at the head of ten thousand Americans, to the obedience of Congress.

Lord

Lord Howe was joined by three ships, one of which carried seventy-four guns, the other sixty-four, and the third fifty. On the tenth of August the French fleet appeared drawn up in order of battle. The wind being in their favor, Howe strove, by every manœuvre to gain that advantage, but was baffled by the countermovement of the enemy. The whole of the next day was spent in such fruitless efforts; all the while the A——l meeting the united execrations of all the sailors and soldiers on board the English ships. At last, just as he determined to make the attack, a strong gale of wind arose, which soon increased to a violent tempest, lasting for forty-eight hours, dispersed the ships of both squadrons, and favored the commanders with an excuse for not fighting. Admiral Byron arrived on the thirtieth of August, and Lord Howe returned to Britain, less laden with glory than Julius Cæsar was, when he returned to Rome with cockle and oyster shells, as the plunder of the ocean.

We soon after learned that Admiral Keppel

pel had lately missed a glorious opportunity of destroying the French fleet in the British channel, having got into a *lee shore*, and yet carested by the nation.

My friend, the Quaker, asked Kenneth if he would like to attend me to the south. His answer was, "I will follow Mr. Lamuel Lyttleton, the *Kentish Curate*, to the world's end"

"A curate!" exclaimed the quaker, "is this young man of the high church? does he wear the Babylonian garments?"

My friend, Mr. Maxfield, explained the meaning of the phrase, and informed the planter, that my father had been a curate in England; but assured him that I had never received orders of any Bishop.

The time of my departure was fixed, Kenneth was new cloathed and equipped for the journey. Mr. Maxfield lent me a sum adequate to the charges of the journey, and I persuaded him to take his son home, and not expose him to any danger that might attend our travel.

I now

I now resumed my sable weeds, indifferently purified from the nauseous stench of the shunk; and those cloaths which I had worn in the mean while, were bestowed on my companion. I kept the gelding that Mr. Maxfield lent me at his house, and Kenneth was furnished with a mare by the Quaker. We were both provided with good passes, which our friends procured, whose benevolent blessings we received, and set out on the arduous journey.

To have my old pupil for a servant and companion, was a turn of fortune which I had little expected; and to me this desirable privilege appeared ominous of better things to come. The winter was yet at a considerable distance in those climes through which we were to pass, and the country still retained all its beauty and verdure.

We dined at an inn distant about thirty miles from the place which we left, and were cheaply and well entertained. Kenneth, who had not been used to ride, complained already, and protested that he would rather sail a thousand

land leagues by sea, than ride fifty miles by land. This induced me to halt longer than I should, to recruit his strength, and to inure him by degrees to travel.

As we were riding through a copse in our way to Anapolis, I heard a rattling sound amidst some leaves. This I concluded immediately must be from the serpent called the rattle snake, of which I had been apprised. I was instantly upon my guard, and requested Kenneth to beware of its wiles. He said he was not afraid of the serpent that beguiled Eve by its subtilty, for he defied the devil and all his works, as well as the witches of both the old and new world.

Before I had well warned him, the creature appeared to our view, having formed itself into a spiril wreath, in the centre of which appeared the head erect, threatening vengeance upon every man or beast that dared approach it.

Were it not for this noise, which providence appears to have contrived to counteract the mischief of this venomous reptile, the
unwary

unwary traveller might easily fall a prey to its baneful poison. Another instance of the goodness of divine providence is discoverable in the provision of an almost infallible antidote to the poison of the Rattle Snake, when it has actually communicated its virulent venom. This sovereign remedy is an herb called the *Rattle-Snake Plantain*, which grows in great profusion wherever these reptiles are to be met.

Naturalists give a most curious description of this American serpent; and a good writer, who resided many years in North America, report the following remarkable story of one of these reptiles :

“ An Indian of the Menomonie nation, caught and tamed a Rattle Snake, and then treated it as a God. He called it his Great Father, and carried it about with him in a box wherever he went. This he had done for several years, when a French trader accidentally met him setting off for a winter’s hunt.

“ The French gentleman was surprized one day to see the Indian place the box which

contained his God on the ground, and opening the door gave him his liberty, telling him whilst he did it, to be sure and return by the time he should himself come back, which was to be in the month of May following.

“ As this was but in October, Monsieur told the Indian, whose simplicity astonished him, that he fancied he might wait long enough when May arrived for the return of his great father. The Indian, however, was so confident of his creature’s obedience, that he offered to lay the Frenchman a wager of two gallons of rum, that at the time appointed he would come and crawl into his box.

“ This was agreed on; and the second week in May following fixed for the determination of the wager. At that period they both met there again, when the Indian set down his box, and called for his great father. The snake heard him not; and the time being now expired, he acknowledged that he had lost.

“ Still, without appearing discouraged, he offered to double the bett if his God came not within

within two days more. This was agreed to ; and on the second day, about one o'clock, the snake of his own accord arrived, returned to the box, which was placed ready for him. "The French gentleman," says our author, "vouched for the truth of this story ; and from the accounts I have often received of the docility of these creatures, I see no reason to doubt his veracity."

These snakes, which survive the summer, retire to the woods at the approach of winter, where each takes possession of a cavity which it had occupied the preceding season of retirement. This affords another incontestable proof of a superintending providence, who has bestowed on them a genius to know the regular succession of seasons ; summer and winter, as well as day and night.

We passed over the face of a long level country which is finely diversified with woods, rivers, and fine meadows. But the sun soon set beneath the horizon, and the twilight, in which the dew fell copiously, was but little prolonged. We were obliged to put up at a

homely hut on the road, as not daring to venture farther in the night over a country to us unknown. Of thieves and robbers we were in no dread, for happily the Provincial army was removed far from us. We met but few people all the way, and these were aged persons, unable to wield the weapons of war.

The landlord of the little tavern, (for it was a kind of public house where we halted,) took great care of our horses, and accommodated us as well as he could. The food was but coarse fare; however, the drink, a kind of cyder, was worse, and the bed on which we were obliged both to recline ourselves, was hard, and uncomfortable; yet we did not in the least complain. I knew that we were better off than many who were ploughing the ocean, or encamped on the warlike plain. I enjoyed a soft repose, and rose early to renew our journey. Our aged host was moderate enough in his charge; so to make him amends, I ordered a mixture of rum, water, and sugar, which Kenneth assured me would prove the best liquor in the province.

The

The second day, as we were descending to a fine valley, we heard a most tremendous roar, louder than the bellowing of a bull. These notes were harsh and grating to my ear. My companion vowed that we were come to an enchanted country, where witches and fairies swarmed in the woods, or sunk into the bogs and swamps. I began to think myself that I could hear articulate sounds, but the most unisonorous I had ever attended to.

These noises, for the voices came from different quarters, increased as we proceeded along the valley, and seemed actually to convey words, such as Deeper and deeper! Knee deep! Ankle deep! Tobacco! Hoghead! &c. all horridly dissonant. I cannot say that I was not alarmed myself; and my companion, who had seen much more of the world, was almost petrified on the occasion.

Arriving at an inn, the first object I had in view, was to procure a solution of the phenomena from the landlord, who informed me, that the bull frog, a reptile of about a foot long,

G

which

which raise their mouths only a little above the surface of the water, make the above hideous roar. They surprize a stranger exceedingly, as they are invisible, yet sometimes all around him; and the instant they make the noise, sink under the water.

Besides these bull frogs, there are multitudes of insects on the trees, which make an incessant noise and clamour. Nor can the traveller perceive from whence the din comes, as they are effectually hid among the leaves and branches.

Our entertainment at this inn was good, and the more welcome to me on account of my keen appetite. We had bread made of Indian corn, excellent tea, notwithstanding all the disputes with Britain about that herb; wine, rum, and cyder in perfection.

I now began to observe a great number of black slaves about the country, and saw the hardships to which they were exposed by their christian masters. Indeed the poor Ethiopian here suffers with rigor, and appears compelled to more drudgery than the Israel-
ites

ites were in Egypt under their imperious task-masters.

Do such masters really believe in the being of a God? Do these enslaved oppressed people belong to his gracious government?

The Quakers, these most enlightened people among men, have discontinued the abominable practice of buying slaves. What said one of them lately in one of their assemblies? His sentiments ought to be engraven with a pen of iron.

“How long shall we have two consciences, two measures, two scales; one in our own favor; one for the ruin of our neighbor, both equally false? Is it for us, brethren, to complain at this moment, that the parliament of England wishes to enslave us, and to impose upon us the yoke of subjects, without leaving us the right of citizens; while, for this century past, we have been calmly acting the part of tyrants, by keeping in bonds of the hardest slavery, men who are our equals and our brethren?

“What have those unhappy creatures done to us, whom nature had separated from us by

barriers so formidable, whom our avarice has sought after through storms and wrecks, and brought away from the midst of their burning sands, or from their dark forests, inhabited by tygers? What crime have they been guilty of, that they should be torn from a country which fed them without toil, and that they should be transplanted by us to a land where they perish under the labors of servitude?

“ Father of heaven, what family hast thou then created, in which the elder born, after having seized on the property of their brethren, are still resolved to compel them, with stripes, to manure, with the blood of their veins, and the sweat of their brow, that very inheritance of which they have been robbed?

“ Deplorable race, whom we render brutes to tyrannize over them; in whom we extinguish every power of the soul to load their limbs and their bodies with burthens, in whom we efface the image of God, and the stamp of manhood! A race mutilated and dishonored as to the faculties of mind and body, throughout its existence, by us who are Christians and Englishmen!

“ Englishmen,

“ Englishmen, ye people favored by heaven, and respected on the seas, would you be free and tyrants at the same instant? No, brethren: it is time we should be consistent with ourselves. Let us set free those miserable victims of our pride. Let us restore the negroes to liberty, which man should never take from man.

“ May all Christian societies be induced by our example, to repair an injustice authorised by the crimes and plunders of two centuries! May men, too long degraded, at length raise to heaven their arms freed from chains, and their eyes bathed in tears of gratitude! Alas! the unhappy mortals have shed no tears but those of despair!”

The slave trade, of all others, is the most diabolical that ever employed the art of fallen man. Satan himself may as well say he is a christian, as any one of the sons of Britain who deals in buying, selling, and enslaving his fellow creatures. Such christians, in their own country, are eternally bawling about liberty, property, freedom of speech, and ap-

pear perfect patriots. As soon as they set their feet on the American shore, they commence tyrants, task-masters, and cruel tormentors.

Alderman Beckford of London, as long as he lived, was loud upon liberty, and his last speech to the King is engraven on marble in the city hall; but all the while hundreds of oppressed Ethiopian slaves were bearing his burthens on their backs, under the lashes and scourges of their mercenary overseers, and groaning in chains, without the least hope, that comes to all besides, of ever being freed from captivity. Lucifer as well might have pretended patriotism, as that enslaving, self-condemning Lord M—— of London.

In the course of my journey through Maryland, I had frequent opportunities of observing the oppressed negroes at work. It is astonishing and unaccountable to conceive what a degree of fatigue these poor wretches can support, under the galling yoke of their imperious oppressors.

They are called up in the morning by day
break,

break, and are seldom allowed time enough to swallow three mouth-fulls of hominy, or hoe cake, but driven to the field to hard labor, where they continue incessantly at work, under the rod of the haughty keepers till noon, when they are permitted to eat their scanty allowance.

It is observable that they always carry with them a piece of fire, and kindle one just by their work, even in the warmest weather.

Their dinner consists of hominy and salt; to eat which, they are seldom allowed an hour. Some few of their masters in Maryland, who have not lost every trace of humanity, sometimes, on particular occasions, treat their slaves with a little skimmed milk, salt herring, or rusty bacon, to relish the hominy or hoe cake. But such delicious fare, by the best planters, is bestowed but with a niggardly hand, given grudgingly, and made the plausible pretext for more intolerable oppression.

Returning after dinner to their severe labor,

bor, they continue in the field till the dusk in the evening; when, for recreation, they are driven to the tobacco-houses, where each has his task of stripping allotted him. If it be discovered next morning, that he has neglected, flighted, or not properly performed his labor, Lord have mercy upon him!

He is tied up by the arms, and receives a number of lashes on his bare back, as severely inflicted as the barbarous slaves of office please; for to them the miserable wretches are entirely left, without any restriction or controul.

It is late at night before they are suffered to eat their scanty supper. They lie on benches or the ground, with only an old scanty single blanket; and even that is reckoned a luxury, and but seldom afforded.

The cloathing of a negro by day is not less wretched, being nothing but a shirt and trowsers made of coarse thin hempen stuff in the summer; and with only the addition, as I was told, of a fordid woollen jacket, breeches, and shoes, in the hard frosts of winter.

The

The female slaves fare no better; and even when they are in the delivery, they are not suffered to loose more than a week from their labor. They carry their infants to the field, and are obliged to suckle them without the least dimunition of their task.

They are under an absolute necessity of being submissive and quite passive under their affliction. They dare not resist the blow of their overseers, or defend themselves against the most wanton attack. The arm of a negro, who raises it against a white person, is struck off, according to the law of the Provinces.

Though the above description is perfectly horrible, it is by no means exaggerated.*

It

* The Rev. James Ramsay, M. A. in his Essay on the Treatment of African Slaves in the British colonies, accurately describes the sufferings of these unhappy people in the West-India islands.

“ The English,” says this humane writer, “ have not paid the least attention to enforce, by a law, either humanity or justice. A horse, a cow, or a sheep, is much better protected by the law than a poor slave. For these, if found in a trespass, are not to be injured, but secured,

It will not be amiss now to take a cursory survey of the manners of the lordly masters of these mal-treated sons of men.

The

secured for their owners; while a half-starved negro may, for breaking a single cane, which probably himself planted, be hacked to pieces with a cutlass; even though perhaps he is incapable of running away from the watchman who finds him in the fact. Nay, we have men amongst us, who dare boast of their giving orders to the watchmen, not to bring home any slave that they find breaking of canes, but, as they call it, to *hide* them; that is, to *kill* and bury them. And accordingly, every now and then some poor wretch is missed, and some lacerated carcase discovered."—*If there was no God in the world, men could not act worse!*

"The discipline of a sugar plantation is as exact as that of a regiment. At four o'clock in the morning the plantation bell rings, to call the slaves into the field. Their work is to manure, dig, hoe, and plough the ground; to plant, weed, and cut the cane; to bring it to the mill; to have the juice expressed, and boiled into sugar. About nine o'clock they have half an hour for breakfast, which they take in the field. Again they fall to work, and, according to the custom of the plantation, continue till eleven o'clock at noon; the bell then rings, and the slaves are dispersed in the neighbourhood

The gentlemen of condition, seldom rise before nine, then takes a short walk, returns to his breakfast, which is usually coffee or tea, bread

hood, to pick up, about the fences, in the mountains, and fallow waste grounds, natural grass and weeds for the horses and cattle. The time allotted for this branch of work and preparation of dinner, varies from an hour and an half to near three hours. In collecting pile by pile, their little bundles of grass, the slaves of low-land plantations, frequently burnt up by the sun, must wander in the neighbouring grounds perhaps more than two miles from home. In their return, often some lazy fellow of the intermediate plantation, with a view of saving himself the trouble of picking his own grass, seizes on him, and pretends to insist on carrying him to his master, for picking grass, or being found in his grounds; a crime that forfeits the bundle, and subjects the offender to twenty lashes of a long cart whip, of twisted leather thongs. The wretch, rather than be carried to judgement in another man's plantation, is fain to escape with the loss of his bundle, and often to put up with a good drubbing from the robber into the bargain. The hour of delivering his grass, and renewing his task approaches, while hunger importunately solicits to remember his call; but he must
renew

136 THE KENTISH CURATE.

bread and butter, with some thin slices of hung beef or ham. He then reclines himself on a pallet on the floor of a cool room, with only

renew the irksome toil, and search out some green, shady, unfrequented spot, from which to repair his loss.

“ At one, or in some plantations, at two o’clock, the bell summonses them to deliver in their tale of grass, and assemble to their field work. If the overseer thinks their bundle too small; or if they came too late with them, they are punished with a number of stripes from four to ten. Some masters, under a fit of carefulness for cattle, have gone as far as fifty stripes, which effectually disables the culprit for weeks. If a slave has no grass to deliver in, he keeps away out of fear, skulks about the mountains, and is absent from his work often for months; an aggravation of his crime, which, when he is caught, he is made to remember.

“ About half an hour before sun-set, they may be found scattered over the land like the Israelites in Egypt, to cull, blade by blade, from among the weeds, their scanty parcels of grass. About seven o’clock in the evening, or later, according to the season of the year, when the overseer can find leisure, they are called over by list, to deliver in their second bundles of grass; and the same punishment is inflicted on delinquents.

They

only his shirt and trowsers on. Here, however, he lies in a kind of state, having a negro at his head to fan him, and another at his feet to keep off the flies. About noon he takes a draught of toddy, made weak, and kept cool. He dines between two and three, when ham and greens make a standing dish. Having dined, and drank as he pleases of various liquors, he resumes his prostrate posture on the pallat with his two attendants, and continues

They then separate to pick up, in their way to their huts, a little brush wood, or dry cow dung, to prepare some simple mess for supper, and to-morrow's breakfast. This employs them till near midnight, and then they go to sleep till the bell calls them in the morning.

“ The annual allowance of a slave is as follows:

Annual allowance of rice, flour, maize,		l. s. d.
beans, or other grain,	—	0 12 0
Ditto of herrings, his fish, or scraps of salt		
beef at Christmas,	—	0 8 0
Ditto cloathing,	— —	0 3 6
Surgeon, quack medicine, and extraordinary		
necessaries when sick,	—	0 2 6
		<hr/>
Whole annual allowance,	—	1 6 0
		<hr/>

tinues to drink toddy, or sangaree, the whole afternoon.

The middling and lower orders rise at six o'clock in the morning. They drink rum and water made very strong, ride about the plantation to observe the slaves at their labor, and return to breakfast about ten. This generally consists of fried hominy, cold turkey, or cold beef, toast and cyder, ham, bread and butter, tea or coffee. The women drink chocolate, but the men seldom taste it. The rest of the day is spent generally in the manner of the English common people spending the sabbath day, in idleness, like their superiors, making the poor footy-hued Ethiopians perform all the drudgery, and bear the intolerable burthen in the heat of the day, whilst they themselves disdain to work.

“Oppression,” says Soloman, “makes even a wise man mad.” Surely it would be no wonder if a general revolt was to take place in these colonies where the slaves are so numerous. The slaves in the French colonies, are not nearly so much oppressed as those who are under the descendants of Britons who boast so loudly
of

of their birthright. If these sons of liberty indeed possess freedom, it is to exercise cruelty. I say the French slaves are better fed, cloathed and bedded. Their punishments are less frequent, and they have much more time allotted them to complete their tasks. Who, amidst the surrounding nations would ever have supposed that Britons could be capable of barbarities?

The ordinary punishment of slaves in the provinces, for the common crimes of neglect, absence from work, or little pilfering, are cart-whipping, beating with a stick to the breaking of bones. Sometimes they are chained to the place, or at least have a large iron crook fixed round the neck. Sometimes they are confined, during the pleasure of their lords, to a dismal dungeon, upon short allowance, and occasionally whipped into the bargain. Other oppressors content themselves with fixing a huge rusty iron pudding about the ancle of the offender, after being soundly whipped. Slitting of ears, and breaking of limbs, so as to make amputation necessary; beating out of eyes,

eyes, and sometimes castration, have been often practised. This cruel usage to beasts in the French colonies would be reckoned a certain mark of idiotism in a planter, as in England it would render him as infamous as the common hangman.

These acts of diabolical infernal cruelty, in the colonies, bring no lasting disgrace to the perpetrators; and I have heard it affirmed, that in one of the provinces, two magistrates, within these thirty years, were celebrated for cutting off the limbs of their slaves.

O horrible disgrace to human nature! O dreadful prostitution of power over the oppressed! Surely there is a God to judge in righteousness such vile unfeeling miscreants, who will punish the proud imperious planters! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

Welcome war, with all thy train of horrors, if happily thy desolating breath shall sweep away from the world such misanthropists. Better the provinces sink into the sea, and appear as if they never had been discovered, than thus to be the habitation of cruelty. May
heaven

heaven inspire all those of the several colonies, who have not gone too far in the practice of oppression, and are not callous as the rocks, with a spirit of sympathy, and tender humanity for the distresses of the African slaves, and return them to their own land, or make them free in that of their present bondage. The Quakers of Pennsylvania have set a noble example of philanthropy; and Congress, if it would claim the protection of heaven, must emancipate the slaves, teach them the truth, and that will infallibly make them free.

The first of these unhappy slaves were brought into Virginia by a Dutch ship, in the year 1621. There are at present 110,000 negroes in this colony. This occasions a double loss of mankind; first, in exhausting the population of Africa; and secondly, in preventing that of the Europeans in America.

I had frequent opportunities, in the course of our journey through Maryland, to enter into conversation with some of the negroes, whom

142 THE KENTISH CURATE.

whom I discovered to be totally ignorant of every principle of revealed religion. The *Christian* planters, their worldly-minded masters, seem to have no idea of their duty to those under their care, excepting in giving them a weekly sabbath. They look upon the slaves to be a generation who proceeded a different stock than Adam, and therefore think that they belong not to the Saviour of sinners, and have no claim to the covenant of redemption.

They entertain some notions of a supreme being, and believe, that at their death, they will return to their own country, and be happy.

As we passed through an ample forest, we met a few scattered Indians, men, women, and children, from the back settlements. They accosted us in language which I did not understand; but Kenneth, who had been in company with several of these natives of North-America, was my interpreter.

Superstition is natural to the human mind, and is prevalent in every clime. One
of

of the men, dressed differently from the rest; and who, as I understood, was a high priest, told me that he was possessed with a power of auguring, by consulting the *Great Spirit*. Willing to detect his imposition, and expose his ignorance, I asked him if he could tell where we were travelling to? He said he could answer any question by consulting his oracle, the great spirit.

Mean while, the female Indians begged money of me, with so much importunity, that I could not refuse them. Kenneth, all the time, kept on talking to them in their own language; but I charged him to say nothing about me, or the intention of my journey.

The priest fell to work with his mystical rites, and lay down upon a skin, after having stripped himself almost naked. Being flat on his back, he drew the skin round him, covering himself all over, except his head.

Two of the Indian men took long thongs of hide, and rolled the skin tight round his body. Being thus swaddled up, like the gentleman

tleman who suffered the two ladies in France to swathe him before he went to bed to them; one took him by the heels, and another by the head, and carried him into a thick copse, under a wide-spreading tree. I followed them close, resolved to observe the whole ceremony.

The priest soon began to mutter; for priests of all religions like to hear themselves talk. He grew louder and louder by degrees, till at last he made the wood echo. I was all attention, though I understood no more of what he was saying, than I knew of witchcraft. He kept his eyes fixed on me, and appeared to address all he said immediately to me. At last he began to rave extravagantly, and foamed at the mouth, till I thought he was agitated to madness. He continued his vociferous jargon near a whole hour with unaltered vigor. At last, when he seemed quite spent, and was speechless, he shook off his covering, and broke his bands as quickly as Samson removed his cords, standing upright, and thus addressed me:

“Stranger,

“ Stranger, but brother, I have been favoured with a new revelation from the Great Spirit, and can now answer any question to thy satisfaction, which thou canst propound.”

Fully persuaded that the whole was a farce, I proceeded to ask him again, if he knew to what place I was bound, and the end of my journey?

He answered in his own language, and Kenneth could not understand him.

Some of the women endeavoured to explain his prophecy; and after many circumlocutions, and artful cross questions, I found he meant no more, than that I was travelling to the sun to meet my father.

I should have paid some attention to this mock priest's augurs, had I not been persuaded that he, or some of his party, had drawn all their intelligence from my humble simple Caledonian companion.

B O O K XVI.

I LEFT the pretended augurs, and proceeded to Anapolis, where we arrived about sun-set, and met good accommodation at an inn, kept by an Englishman, who had been originally kidnapped by a miscreant crimp in London. I found our host very easy in conversation, and free enough to confess the iniquity of the slave-trade, which he affirmed, had been the procuring cause of all the calamities that had already come, or were threatening the unhappy provinces of North America.

I replied, I trusted in heaven, that all these calamities would terminate in the freedom of the black slaves, who groaned under the Provincial yoke.

As

As we sat down to supper, several strange gentlemen arrived, who wore the military array of the colony; one of them I quickly knew to be a North Britain by his broad dialect; and another, by his brogue, an Hibernian. Two of them appeared English, and the fifth, who was the guide, proved a Provincial.

I found that they had all been in the Provincial service, and had made their escape from the infant settlement of Wyoming, which had been peopled by the overflowings of population in Connecticut. A thousand men from that country served in the American army, and left the place defenceless, of which Colonel Butler, who had been employed by the English as an agent among the northern savages, took the advantage. He led a body of fifteen hundred men, partly Indians, and the rest disguised as such, against that hitherto second paradise, which was protected from attacks by four forts. The first, being possessed by tories, voluntarily surrendered; the second was taken by storm, and

the men who were found in it put to death in the most barbarous manner; but the women and children were spared.

Butler drew the principal officer of the third fort, and a great part of his force into an ambuscade, under pretence of holding a parley. They were all cut to pieces, except the commander, who escaped with about seventy men.

The English Commander then invested the fort, and sent into the miserable wretches within, two hundred gory scalps of their relations and comrades. The besieged begged to know what terms he would grant them on surrendering. He replied, "the hatchet." They surrendered at discretion. Butler, having selected a few from the general sacrifice, shut up the rest in the fort, set fire to it, and bade the Indians enjoy the infernal pastime of gratifying their ears with the piercing cries of the tormented victims. The same dreadful destruction, without the least mixture of mercy, was carried over the whole colony, and neither age or sex was spared by

by those blood hounds, the savages. The inhabitants being extirpated, the land was laid waste, and even the cattle cruelly suffered under the hands of these diabolical butchers, for they either had their tongues cut out, or were otherwise maimed in a terrible manner.

This shocking story of so recent a date, as only a few months before I heard it, could not fail to torture my mind by presenting so horrible a picture of human nature. The Caledonian observing me much moved on the occasion, proceeded to recapitulate the most remarkable incidents of his life previous to his late providential escape from Wyoming, concluding with a tale more to the present purpose than all the rest, which was as follows :

“ But though I myself was in the rebellion in 1745, I had an uncle in the English service soon after, who being abroad in Florida, was present at the siege of St. Augustine, where he was taken by the Indian savages, and reserved to undergo those torments

H 3

which.

which they usually inflict on their prisoners of war.

“ The speech which the serjeant made (for my uncle was raised by merit to that office) is well worth your attention, and was addressed to the blood-thirsty savages who were preparing the tortures.

“ Heroes and patriarchs of the western world, you were not the enemies that I sought for; but you have at last been my conquerors. The chance of war has thrown me in your power. Make what use you please of the right of conquest. This is a right that I do not call in question. But, as it is customary in my country to offer a ransom for one’s life, listen to a proposal not unworthy of your notice.

“ Know then, valiant Americans, that in the country of which I am a native, there are some men who possess a superior knowledge of the secrets of nature. One of these sages, connected to me by the ties of kindred, imparted to me, when I became

“ became a soldier, a charm to make me in-
 “ vulnerable. You must observe how I have
 “ escaped all *your* darts. Without such a
 “ charm, would it have been possible for me
 “ to have survived all the mortals blows that
 “ you have aimed at me? For I appeal to
 “ your own valour, to testify that mine has
 “ sufficiently exerted itself, and has not avoid-
 “ ed any danger. Life is not so much the
 “ object of my request, as the glory of hav-
 “ ing communicated to you a secret of so
 “ much consequence to your safety, and of
 “ rendering the most valiant nation upon the
 “ earth invincible. Suffer me only to have
 “ one of my hands at liberty, in order to
 “ perform the ceremonies of enchantment,
 “ of which I will now make trial of myself
 “ before you.”

“ Mercy, man, he must have been a witch
 or a wizard; for if he had not been concerned
 with the devil, it would have been impossible
 to have said so much,” exclaimed Kenneth,
 “ who all the while seemed to tent the soldier
 to the quick whilst telling his story.”

“ Hoot

“Hoot awa! countryman,” retorted the Highlander, “you have no business to put me out of the line.”

I begged the gentleman to proceed, and inform us of the consequence of his uncle’s harangue. He went on as follows:

“The savages, although athirst for blood, regarded with uncommon attention what my kinsman advanced, and considered his overture flattering both to their warlike character, and their turn for the marvellous. After some short consultation, they untied one of his arms. The prisoner then begged that they would put his broad sword into the hands of the stoutest and most expert amongst them; at the same time laying bare his neck, after having rubbed it, muttering some magic words, and making signs, put on a cheerful face, and thus exclaimed:

“Observe now, O valiant Indians, an
 “irrefragable proof of my integrity. Thou
 “warrior, who now holdest my keen cut-
 “ting weapon, do thou now strike with all
 “thy strength: far from being able to sever
 “my

“ my head from my body, thou wilt not.
“ even wound the skin of my neck.”

“ The chief of the tribe of Indians hearing this confident declaration of the Highlander, quickly resolved to try the experiment, and giving the signal to the young warrior who held the sword, the prisoner’s head was cut off in a moment, and flew to the distance of twenty feet. The astonished savages soon discovered the artifice which the man had made use of to avoid the tortures by hastening his death, and admiring the scheme, they buried him with all the honors of war.”

“ Oh ! by my soul,” cried the Irish soldier, “ but it would have been more noble in the savages to have given him life after !”

I found the two Englishmen in company had been captured at Saratoga the preceding campaign, and had joined the enemy. By the terms of capitulation they were bound not to serve *against* America, but no further. They both declared, that they had been inveigled by a recruiting officer in London into the

King's service, and attested before a magistrate when in liquor. They then went upon drill, and acquired the manual exercise in St. James's park, contrary to their inclination; and being often ill used by their imperious mercenary officers, they were resolved to be revenged the first opportunity. One of them declared that he had done the business for one school-boy, Strutter, at Fort Edward, and the other confessed freely, that Burgoyne's capture saved another, who had sent him twice to the Savoy, and as often had procured him a round hundred on his bare back from a more disagreeable situation, than when he beheld his men pile up their muskets by the river.

The Provincial genius, who assumed more consequence than the rest, as soon as supper was over, and he had drank deep in the bowl of rum and water, asked me what regiment I belonged to? Kenneth observing me rather embarrassed, took the liberty to reply, by saying, "this gentleman is a clergyman, a *Kentish Curate*, and fights under a good master." "Perhaps he is a chaplain to a regiment,"

ment," rejoined the Provincial soldier. "No, fir," said I, "somewhat recovered, I am in no military capacity at present."—"Of what party are you, fir," said one of my countrymen, in a loud imperious tone. "I am perfectly neutral, fir," I replied, "having nothing to do with war, as a lover of peace and concord."

"Aye, aye, master," exclaimed the Provincial soldier, "it was at *Concord* the first battle began in America. I was one of the militia then and there, fir, and fired three or four rounds among the royalists. But I have had many a ball since in return from the king's people; and to say the truth, I am what the Highland serjeant said he was, quite invulnerable, having been leaded all over my body."

"On my salvation, as I am a sinner, he is case-hardened!" vociferated the Hibernian.

"What the plague made you cry out so lustily on board the *Phoenix*, when you was tied up and flogged?" cried Kenneth Cockburn, whispering to me, that he knew the fellow to be a poltroon.

"Oh! my dear honey," replied the Irishman,

man, "his back is not obliged to be clad in armour. The back of a brave man is never seen, and never exposed, till he runs over the hills and far away."

It now struck me that these fellows were nothing less or more than so many deserters from the Provincial service, who, presuming on the quietude of the place, had ventured to shew themselves in the inn, as if upon a march. I enquired of Cockburn how long it was since he was punished on board, and for what crime. He told me it was the preceding summer, and on a charge and full proof of being a deserter from New-York, and causing a mutiny on board.

But before I had time to reflect on what I had been informed, a body of Provincial soldiers precipitately rushed into the room, and charged the five strangers with being spies from the royal army. They were instantly conveyed to prison, and I never heard how the affair terminated.

It was well that we were provided with sufficient passes from respectable people, for

we

we were frequently called upon to produce them in Maryland and Virginia. Poor Kenneth, my companion, discovered much perturbation of mind when the above five fellows were selected from the company, and began to tell me a strange dream which had much disturbed his mind the preceding night. I bade him cast off all his former superstitious fears, and aerial fancies; for if a man fears God; he needs not be afraid of the whole creation, much less be ready to flee when none pursues him.

The people in general of both these provinces, as well as North-Carolina, I found intolerably prejudiced against the proceedings of the British parliament; the majority of which, they considered, as the worst despots in the world, who wanted to oppress and enslave America. The royal army was deemed a band of mercenary men, like the locust that swarmed in Egypt, believing them to be no more than a company of taxers come to enforce by war and bloodshed obedience to the minister's decree. For though the com-
missioners

missioners had made new overtures to the provinces, the leading men of America strove all in their power to depict their duplicity.

At James Town, formerly the flourishing capital of Virginia, we were obliged to produce our passports before a magistrate, who turned out to be a very familiar gentleman, and not destitute of good sense. I found here that the terms Whig and Tory were the very Shibboleth of the province, and almost as much prevailed as in England in Queen Anne's days. Though I wished well to the government to which I belonged, yet I could not call myself a Tory in any sense of the word. I informed the justice of my business in travelling to South-Carolina, and he did not wish to retard my journey.

The river James, in which the tide flows up to the rocks of the falls, is full half a mile wide. There are several islands in this river among the falls, which are chiefly covered with wood, quite irregularly grown, the trees not being in rows like those set by art, but probably coeval with creation itself,

self, and the interspersed huge rocks, which have a fine effect to the eye at a distance.

“Would to heaven,” exclaimed Kenneth, “that these rocks were those of Fifeshire, on the coast where I was bred and born, where all the witches hold their merry midnight meetings, and dance in the glimpses of the moon!—I dare venture to say,” continued Cockburn, “that there are such people here as well as in Scotland.”

I said it was idle to believe in the existence of witches, and therefore not to be expected here, nor any where else; for all the men and women who ever had pretended to witchcraft, were impostures.

“Hoot awa! man,” cried my companion, “dinna you believe in the Witch of Endor, who raised Samuel from the dead to speak to Saul?”

“No, Kenneth,” I replied, “for under the Jewish theocracy, every person pretending to auguring or soothsaying, were considered as enemies to the Supreme Governor, and deceivers of the people. The Witch of Endor,
who

who remained after the general extirpation of those people, no more raised the prophet than Kenneth Cockburn. could one of these rocks, to the summit of the mountain, by his voice. He was raised by the power of him who claims the right to hold the keys of hell and death; who has the souls and bodies of all the dead in his hands, and on a special occasion, if he pleases, can make them unite, and appear to the living. But it is evident that the Witch of Endor, so far from having effected that miracle which you mentioned, was herself terrified, and as much surprised at the apparition, as the King himself.

Kenneth still remained invincible, and wished that we were both on the back of Goody Gray of his native village; for it was in her power to bear us safely to St. Andrew's in one night from Virginia.

The tide reaches the lower end of one of these isles, which, checking the torrent of the water in the falls, favors the passage of the ferry-boats below, where we passed.

Richmond is the largest town below these falls,

falls, and is separated from another town called Shokoes by a creek of the same name. They are both on the north side of the James, and on the south stands Rocky-Ridge, also called Chesterfield.

Lower down, the river is above three miles wide, and ships of considerable burthen go up within two miles of the falls; one of which, as I said to Kenneth, would prove a more certain vehicle to Britain than his Goody Gray.

To Westham, another town, situate about six miles above Richmond, tobacco is navigated in hogheads of half a tun each from the back country. Every hoghead upon two canoes, lashed together, is brought down as far as the falls, and then must be carried by land to Shokoes or Richmond.

I was informed, that sometimes the floods from mountains swell the James to an incredible wideness, overflowing all the low country for many miles. But at the falls, where the mountains on each side prove the impregnable barriers of the flood, the noise of the water, and

and the impetuosity of the torrent, surpass all description.

Yet it seems, from the report of many credible people, that once, when the river was in that state, a man, who was bringing down his tobacco to market, instead of landing at Westham, where he ought, being quite inebriated, proceeded down the amazing current, and arrived safe at Shokoes's warehouse wharf with his commodity, having been brought to shore by boats sent out to his assistance, after he had actually passed all the precipitate, almost perpendicular falls.

The above very extraordinary accident put me in mind of a story which had been told me at Kelso, of a man who was carried ten miles down the Tweed in one of their little fishing-boats, at the time when the river overflowed its banks ; but that was but comparing a small with a great event. What a certain good historian says of America, has often struck me ! “ Every thing in the new world appears to have been done with a bold hand,” I now likewise called to mind the observations

observations of a person, whom I met on the road to London, recorded in the second volume.

In America, nothing is wanting to fill the mind of men with delight, and employ the fertile imagination. It is not only the most capacious quarter of the globe, but also has its rivers, lakes, forests, and mountains, in due proportion to its magnitude.

I observed many beautiful young women, as we rode through North-Carolina, with the roses of health blushing in their comely faces, and formed for delight; but, alas! these charming nymphs are forsaken and forlorn. Their vigorous swains have been forced to attend the field; not to return with their wanted hilarity to their homely habitations from their daily toil, but, perhaps, never more to cast a look on those verdant meadows, and flowery hills, where dwell their disconsolate and sad sweet-hearts.

After a long journey, in which I had like to have lost my humble companion by sickness, and which retarded my travelling
above

above a fortnight, I arrived at Charles-town in South-Carolina, where I expected to behold my parents. I all along had entertained an opinion, that my father resided somewhere in this province, and therefore resolved to loose no further time to discover the particular place of his living, by waiting upon a reverend gentleman, who had been mentioned by Dr. Pedigree, named Lewis.

I called upon that gentleman, who, on seeing my letters of recommendation, kindly intreated me to repair with him from the village (where I found him) to his house.

I soon found that all my labor was lost; for he assured me, that the gentleman whom I supposed to be my father, and whom, he said, I much resembled in my features, shape, and voice, on refusing to comply with the terms of Congress, by renouncing the British government, and taking the oaths to the new rulers, was obliged to abandon his living, where he was highly beloved, and esteemed by all the people under his care, and set out with

with his wife and daughter to England, to the place of his nativity.

This Mr. Lewis assured me his friend, my father, had the rather chosen to do, having heard of the death of his father-in-law, who never knew that he had married his daughter, to take possession of the estate in Northumberland; and, if possible, discover his long-abandoned boy, whom his wife had advertised in the public prints before she left her native country, and of whom he had heard some slight report since her arrival in the new quarter of the world.

This was a shock too much for me to support. I had come from a far country for friends, and to make my fair one mine, but now most lamentably disappointed in all my pursuits.

The reverend gentleman strove, with every effort which his humanity could suggest, to administer consolation to my afflicted mind; but grief got the ascendancy in my heart, and threw me into a fever, which threatened, by its malign operation, a speedy dissolution of my fatigued corporeal frame.

Mr.

Mr. Lewis sought every assistance in his power to soothe my trouble, and that, by the blessing of providence, might prove successful. Amidst other endeavors to ease my calamity, he promised to procure me a passage to Britain as soon as I was able to go on board, offering me every aid necessary for my voyage.

I understood that this clerical gentleman was the son of an eminent school-master in London. He had been brought up at St. Paul's school, and from thence removed to Oxford University. Returning from college, he received orders, was presented with a small living in Yorkshire, by the bishop who ordained him, and was for many years curate of St. Clement's Danes in the Strand, Westminster.

But meeting less encouragement than his merit demanded, and not enjoying a good state of health in his native clime, rather too cold for his constitution, he resolved to try his abilities in America, when, hearing of a vacant place in this province, he left his

his friends, amongst whom he reckoned Dr. Sanders, who he was very intimate with, undertook the arduous voyage, landed safely, soon found his health restored, and was put in possession of plenty.

He lived in a very happy situation, had troubled himself but little about the broils from the beginning, and resolved to be the pastor of that part of the province, whoever were the rulers, as long as he lived.

His sister, an amiable kind woman, who accompanied him from London, and lived at his house, discovered great concern at my illness, attended me in the most compassionate manner, and, as her brother used to tell me, shewed some tokens of respect, from motives, that I must not mention, when I remember my Maria.

Cockburn all the while passed for my servant with the parson, and was considered as a quaker by the people of the province. I found that he had taken an opportunity of informing the clergyman of all he knew relative

lative to me, not missing to mention my title of *The Kentish Curate*.

My disorder rather increased, and I was given over by the physician whom my friend had employed. In these gloomy moments, with the half round of eternity presented to my view, far removed from my native land, and all the friends of my infancy and rising youth, to whom can I apply for balmy consolation, but to thee, O thou Supreme, who has proved my guardian guide to this hour. Suffer me not to sink with horror under the sable shades of death, but let thy friendly crook prove my aid, and thy rod reform me.

—————Let no dark crimes,
In all their hideous forms now starting up,
Plant themselves round my couch in grim array,
And stab my bleeding heart with two-edg'd torture,
Sense of past guilt, and dread of future woe.
Far be the ghastly crew! and in their stead,
Let cheerful mem'ry from her purest cells
Lead forth a goodly train of virtues fair,
Cherish'd in early youth, now paying back
With ten-fold usury the pious care,

And

And pouring o'er my wounds the heav'nly balm
 Of conscious innocence. But chiefly, thou,
 Whom soft-ey'd pity once led down from heaven,
 To bleed for man, to teach him how to live,
 And, oh! still harder lesson, how to die.
 Disdain not thou to sooth the restless bed
 Of sickness and of pain. Forgive the tear
 That feeble nature drops; calm all her fears,
 Wake all her hopes, and animate her faith,
 Till my wrapt soul, anticipating heaven,
 Burst from the thralldom of incumbering clay,
 And on the wings of extacy up borne,
 Springs into Liberty, and Light, and Life.

"But wherefore should a living man
 complain; a man for the punishment of his
 crimes?" It was man himself brought death
 and every woe into the world, and it is
 man who still supports the reign of the grim
 king of terrors. What is my fate, if even
 I fall in this province, and leave my clay
 tenement in a strange land, compared to the
 rigorous destiny of thousands who perish in
 the field of war?

Ah! lust for power, and vile passion for
 revenge of imaginary wrongs, how have

your voterics trampled on the virtuous? one murder, at the first made a villain. Millions of such murders make a hero. Are princes privileged to destroy? they cannot create. Why will not monarchs remember that they are but men? Why not men remember that they are brethren? Why delight in human sacrifice? Why burst the ties of nature that should knit their souls together in amity? Shall brethren, between whom should subsist this soft bond of affection, still breath destruction, and still persevere in trying all their skill to torture one another? Still shall monarchs fondly dream of universal empire, arising from general ruin? Oh! abominable black design! Thou Great Supreme God of Peace, blast the dark design, nor let thy creatures fall unpitied, the victims of base ambition.

My dangerous disease arrived at the crisis, and turned in favor of a renewal of my days. So it was when the good Hezekiah prayed to Heaven, and had fifteen years added to his days. But it is arrogance itself
for

for me to mention my wretched unprofitable life with that of a mighty monarch and the best of men! "What am I, O Heaven, or what is my father's house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?"

My excellent humane friend, the divine, agreeable to his promise, procured me a vessel bound for Holland, belonging to a merchant at Amsterdam. Kenneth accompanied me on board, and agreed to work his passage to Europe. I parted with Mr. Lewis with considerable reluctance, and could not refrain shedding a tear when his sister took leave. I recovered every day after our embarkation, and we sailed from Charlestown on the fourth of January 1779.

The sea all the morning remained serene; but towards the evening the breezes were brisk, and rose to a violent storm. The face of the great deep was suddenly deformed, and our vessel was tossed on the agitated waves. About sun-set the hurricane increased, the water dashed on the deck, and ran down to the hold. I was now among a

people of a strange language, as few besides the master and his mate could speak English.

All hands were instantly employed. The tempest appeared more and more enraged as the darkness and our danger drew on. One of the sailors was washed overboard, and lost his life; and I had never seen any thing more tremendous and alarming, even when on board the vessel bound to America, when on the coast of Cornwall.

The wind was quite against our sailing, and the storm continued till past midnight. The sea made a most hideous roaring. Sometimes we were elevated to an incredible height, and then fell down as from a precipice. Now the main mast was almost levelled with the surge on one side, and then on the other was dashed in the boiling billows. The sails were broken by the violence of the wind; and in a word, death again stared me full in the face, and seemed to assure me that, although I had lately escaped from his dart on land, I must now feel its sting. On the awful occasion, I could not help recalling the

description

description of Homer to my mind, as translated by Mr. Pope, which the critics, however inelegant they may deem mine, must allow to be excellent.

—He bursts upon them all!

Bursts as a wave that from the cloud impends.

White are the decks with foam; the winds aloud

Howl o'er the masts, and sing through every shroud:

Pale, trembling, tir'd, the sailors freeze with fears,

And instant death on ev'ry wave appears.

When the tempest was calmed, and I looked the next morning from the deck, I observed several other vessels much injured, and ours was less damaged than we all had anticipated. But the master was obliged to return to the harbour in order to refit the rigging, and I remained three days in Charlestown, without troubling my worthy friend, the clergyman, with an unexpected second visit, as he lived a few miles up the country.

“Surely they who go down to the sea in ships,” exclaimed once the inspired royal bard of the Hebrews, “those who do busi-

ness in the great waters, see the work of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep. For he commandeth and raiseth the stormy wind which lifteth up the waves. They mount up to the heavens; they go down again to the deep: their soul is melted because of trouble. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wit's end. Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses. He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and declare the wonders that he does for them in the deep. He ruleth even in the raging of the sea, and by his hand the waves are stayed."

I attempted an exhortation on the Sunday at a meeting-house in the town, by the desire of the minister, and had a crowded auditory. As I returned with my friend from church, I observed a number of people flocking around Kenneth, who, I could hear, was very communicative to the keen enquirers

enquirers about me, and more so than I wished. He told his congregation, that I was the son of the rev. Mr. —, lately returned to England from Carolina, and that the sermon which they had heard was not bad, when they considered that it was delivered by *the Kentish Curate*.

Our ship being refitted, I returned on board, Kenneth still keeping to his agreement, and so sailed, with a fair wind, round the coast, having a fine prospect of the level delightful country for many leagues. But at length the western world disappeared, and we were surrounded alone with a view of the ocean.

I found the master of the vessel to be a person of a social turn, and not like many of his countrymen, morose, and disposed to treat me with contempt. He assured me, that Cockburn was a good sailor, and appeared to have been long used to the sea, wishing I would persuade him, if I could, at the end of the voyage, to remain in his service. Indeed he informed me, that it

would be almost impossible for either him or myself to reach the British shore without great danger of being impressed.

The Captain, being very communicative, informed me, that he had employed his ship almost ever since the commencement of the war between England and the revolted colonies, to carry warlike stores to the Provincials; but now, found it impracticable to continue his trade, since the French had declared themselves in favor of America, and the English men of war were so numerous round the coasts. He likewise expressed a dread, that the Dutch would be soon drawn into the war against England, as the consequence of refusing to hear the the repeated remonstrances of that court, which, he represented, as short sighted, and divided.

I likewise learned from the captain, that the old masters of his country, the Spaniards, had actually in contemplation the speedy reduction of Gibraltar, having already blocked up the Streights, and cut off all communication

nication with Barbary, from whence they were wont to be plentifully supplied.

Thus situated, poor old England, as he said, was certainly in a sad forlorn plight, without a single ally to assist her in the hour of deep distress, her finances lowered to an ebb before unknown, divided at home in her councils, left for ever by her best statesman, the Earl of Chatham, unpitied, or rather scorned by the surrounding nations, and apparently forsaken by that God, who so often was her helper, in the time of utmost calamity.

We arrived in the Texel on the twelfth of March, after a tedious passage, in which nothing material occurred worth recording.

The master set me on shore immediately, leaving my little package on board with Kenneth, and so spent the evening agreeable, with that humane captain, in company of several English and Scotch mariners, who had all just arrived from America.

One of them offered me a passage to Harwich in a few days. I accepted the offer,

and agreed with him, providing he would also take my old companion in tribulation, on board.

The next morning, when I was about to return on board for the things which I had left, a dreadful squall arose, and carried our late vessel from her moorings, and dashed her to pieces. Several others shared the same fate, and many more were greatly damaged.

This was within sight of many hundreds of spectators, who could afford no assistance to the poor sailors; most of whom perished, and but few reached the shore alive, besides poor Cockburn; who, adhering to a plank, weathered out the storm, and reached land almost breathless, having lost his all, and being more wretched, if possible, than myself.

I had now nothing left in the world but the cloaths on my back, a very little cash in my pocket, and my journal, which I happily always carried about me.

The master of our late ship, forgetful of his own misfortunes, commiserated the case of Cockburn, who all the while exclaimed
against

against the witches of America; and kindly paid him wages for his service on board during our passage, as if he had been an engaged mariner. Nor was the generous Dutchman wanting in his generosity to me, whose case he knew and deplored; for he lent me money to purchase such things as I immediately wanted, on the pretended prospect of seeing me again, enabling me to appear decent, and affording a hope of reaching London with a degree of comfort.

I only entered a hasty sketch of these occurrences on my book, and have here been also brief, in order to be more particular on incidents more interesting to the reader. For which reason I shall here only add, in the same succinct manner, that Cockburn being new attired, attended me on board my friend's ship. We sailed March the fifteenth; reached Harwich the eighteenth, where we narrowly escaped that fate which awaited us both: I mean being impressed. Next day, we took places in the stage for London. The weather was uncommonly fine for the season,

season, which was the most forward I ever knew, and the country along the road looked pleasant. The trees had begun to blossom, and expand their leaves. The air was mild, and the sun darted his cheering rays. With the vernal equinox, the spring had warned the birds to build their nests, and mingle their melody in the groves, and all things appeared to conspire in bestowing vernal delight to mankind.

B O O K XVII.

FOR that warning voice, says the immortal Milton, which he who saw the Apocalypse heard cry in heaven aloud. Such a warning word would certainly have proved salutary to us in the vehicle, on our way to the metropolis. But misfortunes usually are approaching when least expected; and whilst we were dreaming of coming happiness, woe and direful distress were winging their speedy way to make us miserable.

About two miles from Stratford, when we had reached the place of our destination within a few miles, our carriage suddenly stopped, and two highwaymen, well mounted, guarded the passengers on the right and left, presenting pistols, demanding our money,

ney, and with loud execrations, threatening to send our souls into the other world, in case of refusal.

One of the company, an officer belonging to Chatham Barracks, and a rank Hibernian, fell into a fit in compliment to a lady, with whom he had kept up an immodest conversation the greater part of the way. There was another lady, the only other person in company, who screamed aloud, and seemed almost distracted. I was ill prepared to receive the villains, and Cockburn cried, "we are all bewitched." I was under the necessity of complying with their demand, and so gave them my little purse, containing all the money I was master of, excepting a few shillings.

Kenneth, however, was too much intimidated at that instant to put his hand to his pocket, and so escaped the depredation, when the highwaymen hearing the noise of a carriage on the road, snapped their pistols, and rode away precipitately towards London.

The lady who had fainted, recovering, called

led upon her captain. He arose as from a dream, and exclaimed, "My dear, what is the matter?"

The other lady cried, "We are all robbed and murdered!" "So we are, madam," cried the noble captain, "I believe the ball lodged in my breast."

I was suddenly roused at this mock parade of the Hibernian soldier, and called him Noel Bluff, and Bobadil, as a disgrace to the profession, for endeavouring to shrink from danger, and appear as dead as Sir John Falstaff seemed to Prince Henry at Salisbury, to save his life, during the battle with Hotspur.

The *brave* captain blustered, touched the hilt of his sword, but found it not pliable to his menaces, as it remained in its sheath all the way to town.

When we were set down at an inn in White-chapel, the hero left us, threatening revenge, which not in the least intimidating me, I repaired to a room, and desired Cockburn to discharge the stage.

It happened here, that a gentleman, in the uniform

uniform of an officer came in, who declared that he knew the Irish captain, whom he had seen with us in the street, offering to present us with a short history of his warlike exploits in America, at the beginning of the present unhappy trouble.

“ I shall call this fellow,” said the gentleman, “ who is a disgrace to his country, which has produced so many great men, Captain Viculus, who was sent over to Boston with the troops to General Gage, and appointed to the rank of Lieutenant-captain. He proved perfectly inimical to the Provincials, being of an invincible morose disposition, and an inveterate foe to all the protestant parties in Boston. Had the British dominion been searched, a fellow, more unfit for conciliatory measures, could not possibly have been discovered. He was perpetually dwelling on past grievances; he talked loud and long on the stamp-act, and incessantly repeated the rash action of casting over-board the tea sent to be taxed. Nay, he went back to the last century, conjured up the king, who fell a sacrifice

triforce to the independent party, and his own rashness. He often called the Provincials the sons of regicides, and themselves the spawn of rebels, who," he said, " wanted to shake off all government, and set up their own democracy.

" He principally inveighed against the leading men of the provinces, and went so low in his common-place, conceited, vulgar language, as to call Adams and Hancock, Otis and Washington, a set of transports, of the line of Cromwell, whom he hoped one day, at no great distance, to behold hanging as high as Haman.

" This could not fail to irritate even the more moderate of the people, who soon conceived a most violent aversion to this little mock hero, who, notwithstanding all their remonstrances, was highly careffed by the governor.

" The Captain indulged his asperity to so enormous a degree, that those, who before his arrival, were of no party, became decidedly

dedly inimical to the soldiers, whom they considered as sent to enslave the provinces of America.

“A young gentleman, whom this hero had grossly affronted, sent him a challenge, which he received whilst sitting surrounded by his friends. He instantly drew his sword, brandished the glittering weapon round the room; and, like a monarch bent on battle, declared immediate war against all the Provincials, as a parcel of paltry paltrons.

“However, his rage soon cooled; and when he returned his sword to its scabbard, he forgot to meet his antagonist, who had appointed time and place; and by thus pocketing the affront, he became the scorn and derision of all Boston.

“The sons of satire and wit were merry enough on the occasion, and wrote several lampoons, which were posted in the most public places of the town. The drawing and engraving artists too were employed at the time. The Captain was represented as chief commissioner of the King of Lilliput in Gulliver’s travels, rising on a ladder to search the pockets

pockets of the great man-mountain, and seizing on what money and goods he could discover; when presently Gulliver shifts the ladder to a tree, at which is a rope suspended, for the purpose of riding the world of such a monster as the captain; who, destitute of every emotion of humanity, attempted to add fuel to a flame, which was already too fierce to be easily quenched.

“The character of this hero, as far as I yet described it, appears to be aptly drawn in Homer’s *Illiad*, as translated by Pope:

“Thersites only clamor’d in the throng,

“Loquacious, loud, and turbulent of tongue:

“Aw’d by no shame, by no respect controul’d,

“In scandal busy, in reproaches bold;

“With witty malice studious to defame,

“Scorn all his joy, and laughter all, his aim.—”

“Captain Viculus was charged with an expedition, and commanded an hundred men, and I myself had the fortune to attend him. It was to intercept the operation of a number of Provincials, reported to have accumulated a quantity of warlike stores at Roxburgh chapel. When we arrived, we were immediately

immediately fired upon by the militia, who killed several of our men. The courageous captain retired after the first fire, as if greatly wounded, to a little hut at a small distance. The fire upon us was from people who lay in ambush by the road side. We soon demolished the Chapel, and were about to seize on the warlike stores, when the country people in arms surrounded us, and killed about fifty of our number; which, with those who fell in the first onset, made our loss fifty-five killed, and six wounded, besides captain Viculus.

“The plebeans, however, meeting a warm reception, retired with great precipitation, and left us masters of the field.

“We now searched for the captain, and found him apparently dead in the hut. But soon as he heard that the enemy was departed, he revived, resuming his authority and vociferous talk, in an instant.

“When I lifted him up, he raged and stormed aloud, vowing quick revenge on the detestable, despicable fugitives.

“Yet

“ Yet the fellow acquired no inconsiderable honor from the *victory*; his *wounds* were almost instantaneously healed by some *secret remedy*; and those who had actually signalized themselves, were obliged to throw all the glory of the day into the scale of the captain.”

The sensible officer had scarcely uttered the last word, when we were surprised at the captain's appearance, attended by a body of constables; who, without the least ceremony, seized upon me and Cockburn, declaring us impressed men fit to serve his Majesty; and, hurrying us away to the watch-house, close to the chuck-yard, we were confined all that night, March the twenty-second, 1779, in company with certain weavers of Spitalfields, and vagrants who fell under the meaning of the new act of parliament, for raising men for the army.

This was truly a horrible situation, and as bad as the black hole in Connecticut. We were guarded by watchmen, and therefore could not effect an escape. Our fellow prisoners proved people of a different cast
from

from those in America; for they sang and roared all the night! thinking no more of their captivity, as I supposed, than if they were pent up in the box of an ale-house, spending the evening with their merry companions.

“But when the morning came, they appeared pensive enough, and more so when we were taken from the place to the opposite side, and conducted up a long flight of steps to a room at the Angel inn, where sat two of his Majesty’s magistrates with their clerk, attended by Captain Viculus, as the officer stiled our late companion in travel.

Cockburn and me were first set to the bar, when one of the magistrates asked the constables, were they had taken us? “In the tavern,” replied one of the fellows, with great forwardness, “drinking with an officer.”

“These are fine times for taverns indeed!” exclaimed one of the justices; “fine times truly for tipling, when the French are coming to invade us.” “It is true as I hope to be

be saved," returned an other officer; and, ant
pleassey our worship, this here worthy cap-
tain, who sits with the commissioners at Jus-
tice W——'s, in Hog-lane, can bear wit-
ness to what we positively declare to your
worship."

"I see you are nothing but a couple of
vagrants, or perhaps swindlers," cried the el-
dest benchor, "and it is our business, as ma-
gistrates, sitting here by the King's authority,
to send such persons to proper places, that
will confine them to order."

I answered his worship, that we were per-
sons of no such description, as I could make ap-
pear from people of reputation in London; that
we were just come to town, and hardly got
out of the stage, in which we had been rob-
bed on the road, in company of the captain
to whom I referred, when we were forced a-
way to the watch-house, as impressed men.

The captain declared that he knew nothing
of us, but by being in the stage; and as to
the robbery, he had lost nothing, nor the la-
dies in his company. He then pronounced
me

me a vulgar conceited youth, who had abused him on the road like a pickpocket.

"That," retorted I, "was because you behaved in the coach during the robbery, as you did at Roxburgh, in America, when your men were killed and wounded."

"Hold your tongue, sir, if you please!" vociferated the younger magistrate, with his face as red as his scarlet vesture, "you will betray yourself presently. You have been in America I find, and therefore the fitter to serve the king. Take them both away, constable, taking with you proper assistants, and lodge them in Clerkenwell bridewell till Friday, and then bring them up to the public office in Hog-lane, before the Commissioners, one of which I myself have the honor to be."

I begged his worship to hear me a few moments in behalf of myself, and hoped he would suffer my companion to speak also; but he would not hear, and his mate of a magistrate cried, "take them away!"

This was a hard but irreversable decree. We were conducted from the office through Spitalfields; and so, after a long walk, in
which

which we were exposed to the crowd, we were secured in the above gaol, a description of which, and its inmates, I have already laid before the reader. We were not confined among the common felons, or the disorderly people, but in an apartment appropriated for impressed men. Our allowance was rather better than theirs, and we had a kind of bed, consisting of a little straw and a blanket, allowed to each of us.

Before the day appointed for our departure, the number of impressed men was much increased, and we were all carried in coaches to the office in Hog-lane, near Moorfields, amidst a numerous retinue of spectators.

The office being much crowded, and Captain Viculus not being come, Cockburn and me were carried backwards to a strong watch box, in the yard of the Northumberland Head, and there bolted in for about half an hour. During that time the landlord kindly enquired if we chose to be accommodated with beer, bread and cheese. We accepted the offer. I gave him a shilling to take for the slice and

pot of porter, when he very politely thanked us, but returned no change; for people in a spunging-house always pay double at least.

When we returned to the office, and were set to the bar, I observed Captain Viculus, with several other military and marine officers, as assistants to the commissioners of the land tax. Viculus reddened his effeminate face the moment he saw me, and cried, "Here is my man, gentlemen."

In the second volume of my history, the reader was presented with a very vulgar marine examination, for the style and manner of which I hope proper allowances were made. I now presume to offer another dramatical scene, consisting of civil, military, and naval characters.

Constable. Here, your worships, is the two men from bridewell, sent there by the warrant of Mr. Justice ———, and his other worship.

Justice Hodley. What are the names of the fellows, constable?

Constable. The name of *this here* man, is
Kennington.

Kennington Cowborn, and the name of *that there* young fellow is Samuel ——. What is your name? [Looking to me.]

Myself. My name, gentlemen, is *Lamuel Lyttleton*.

Hodley. Take him up to the surgeon for *infection*, and let us immediately know if he is fit for land or sea. I do not care which.

Viculus. Serjeant *Shrewsbury*, take this rascal to the standard, and inform the court how much he measures. I dare say he is tall enough for a marching regiment in *America*.

Commissioner. Not so rash! Not quite so rash, gentlemen. We must first know whether he is a fit subject for the coercion of the new act of parliament, which impowers us to sit, in order to investigate the character of such persons. What are you, Sir?

Self. To answer that emphatical question, has employed the greatest part of my life, Sir, and now am at as great a loss as ever.

Sea Lieutenant. Was you ever at sea, Sir?

Viculus. I know him to be an *American*,

and never was at sea in all his life by St. Patrick.

Sea Lieutenant. Oh! my dear honey—and how the devil came he here then? [A loud laugh in court.]

Commissioner. He came over in a waggon, or in one of Moore's self-moving machines, as the captain did first from Ireland, I suppose.

Hodley. Have you a master? How do you get your living?—not by hard labor, I am sure. What do you say, Sir? Have you no master? What is his name, Sir? Will you not tell me, Sir?

Self. His name is *Tully*, Sir.

Hodley. Is Mr. *Tully* here, Sir?

Self. No, Sir. He is dead.

Hodley. Dead! Oh! your master is dead. That will do, gentlemen. He owns that he has no master.

Viculus. I knew Mr. *Tully*. He was an officer under General Putnam, and fell by my hand on the top of Bunker's-hill, when I commanded a company in the town of Boston,

ton, and was guarding it during the engagement.

Commissioner. Why, gentlemen, *Tully* was a Roman orator and philosopher, and knew as little of America as *Moses*, being dead many hundred years before the battle of Bunker's-hill. But his nine *sisters*, and your's, Mr. Lyttleton, are not dead.

Hodley. We want no women for America. Do not bring them here, else I will send every brat of them to bridewell, where their brother has just been. What are you, Sir?

Cockburn. Since Mr. Lyttleton will not, I must speak. He is a student, a minister, and *The Kentish Curate*! [A roar.]

Hodley. Hold your tongue, you rascal. Who gave you an allowance to bray out of bridewell.

Viculus. Well. Let him be *The Kentish Curate* still. I will conduct him to a living myself—at Chatham Barracks. He shall be chaplain to the garrison—the impressed men I mean. Eh! gentlemen.

Sea Lieutenant. You must ask my leave for that, sir. Have you been on board a man of war? Can you box the compass, hand, reef, and steer? Can you go from abaft the binnacle to the yard-arm, and the top mast? Can you—

Hodley. Eat your allowance, skulk from the call, and—

Lieutenant. D——n your worship—what the devil do you mean by such questions? —forgive me for swearing.

Commissioner. To order, gentlemen. We are not in a bear garden, I hope.

Hodley. Why not, Sir? Have I not a right to speak, Sir?

Lieutenant. So have I, Sir. Are not officers appointed by parliament to assist the civil magistrates in these matters?

Hodley. Take him up, Take him up to the surgeon, and measure him after.

Viculus. Measure him first, serjeant Shrewsbury.

Lieutenant. D——n me, he shall not be measured at all. He is tall enough to run between decks.

Hodley.

Hodley. Let us proceed to examine the other man. Let him go up, Constable.

Lieutenant. If you carry him up to hell or heaven, I will bring him on board the *Nightingale* by Jupiter.

Here, as the constables were forcing me up stairs, the naval officers interfered, and were opposed by the military, and the court was thrown into the utmost confusion. The most horrible disorder prevailed all over the crowded office, and several of the impressed men made their escape.

Silence again resuming her reign, the commissioner, who all along behaved like a gentleman, strove all in his power to take my part, but the majority was against me, and I was obliged to declare whether I would go to sea, or be sent for a soldier?

I chose the first, as appearing the least evil, especially as I might have been thrown under the dominion of *Viculus*, if I had determined on the latter. I informed the gentlemen, that if I was unjustly to be forced from my native country, unfortunate and forlorn as I was,

and without friends to help me, I must submit to the will of heaven.

I was set aside, and thrust into a box, where stood about ten or twelve young men of a most despicable dirty look, and dressed like street pickers. Such a society put me again in mind of Sunderland. Such a society hurt my feelings, and rendered my situation tenfold more horrible than it would have been alone. Such society was capable of constituting a hell even in heaven. Not one of them could open his mouth without blasphemy. In all my travels I could not remember to have beheld such infernal friends; Stubbs, Cowling, Pollard, and Barrett, hardly excepted.

When I was taken away, with Kenneth, who alone remained my consolation in trouble, and three of the rest, the captain was much chagrined; and as I looked back, strove to hide his face. We were put into a coach, attended by an officer, who carried a drawn sword, and surrounded by part of a press-gang, who saw us safe on board the regulating

ing ship called the Nightingale, lying opposite to the tower of London.

The scenes on board this vessel being so similar to those which I have already described when at Sunderland, make it unnecessary to describe them in this place. We lay there one night; during which time the number greatly increased, and next day were taken upon deck, to wait the order of the regulating officers.

I told my tale to a very sensible candid naval officer, who presided at the regulating board, and heard it with much attention. Observing that I knew nothing of sea affairs, he was pleased to dismiss me immediately.

This unexpected resolve threw me into an extacy of joy, so that I indulged a slothful unconcern for the fate of my companion, even when he was passed by the board as an able seaman. This insensibility was highly criminal; and before this time, I hardly thought myself capable of ingratitude. Indeed it was not in my power to help him that moment, but I might have commiserated his case, and

resolved to do all I could, when on shore, to procure his discharge.

A boat was immediately ordered to come along side of the vessel to take me a shore, and a lieutenant, with three of his gang, attended me to the stairs that lead up to Tower-hill ! When we landed, I was about to take my leave of my attendants, when the lieutenant informed me, that his orders were to return me to the public office in Hog-lane, from whence I came. I was unable to make the least remonstrance. He called a coach in the Minories, and carried me to that place ; when he informed the magistrate then on the bench, whom I had never seen before, that I was rejected by the officers on board the Nightingale, as a person totally unfit to serve his Majesty in a naval capacity.

The justice, not being one of the land-tax commissioners, could not tell how to dispose of me. I was proceeding to repeat the tale which had proved so successful on board, which the magistrate listened to ; but unhappily, just as I was about to be discharged,

one

one of Captain Viculus's serjeants came into the office, and informed the good-natured gentleman on the bench, that I was the young man whom his captain so much wanted the preceding day, as intending to make me his servant, if not the chaplain to the garrison.

The die was now cast. I was consigned over to the care of the serjeant as an impressed man. The magistrate quickly changed his language from humane sentiments to cruel mockings; and, above all things, advised me to better my situation, by enlisting, and taking the oath immediately. I peremptorily and perseveringly refused, when the serjeant, calling the aid of a runner of justice, ordered a coach, and I was conducted along the side of Moorfields, through the city, by St. Paul's, and so on to the Savoy prison, which I had heard so ably described some years before by my friend Dr. Sanders, whom I instantly remembered, as I was conducted down the circular stair-case from the captain's kitchen.

I was

I was furrounded the moment I entered the area of the mouldy quadrangle, by a multitude of poor miserable-looking wretches, impressed men; some of them I had seen in prison, at the office; mere scar-crow fellows, who reminded me of Sir John Falstaff's ragged regiment. They demanded eighteen-pence for garnish, which, when I had paid, I had just one shilling remaining.

I had now time to reflect upon my insensibility in the case of Cockburn, whose situation was a perfect paradise, compared to mine. I was now in a loathsome prison, guarded by soldiers in arms, and in company of the refuse of all the gaols of the metropolis. A picture of hell itself, though drawn by the pen of an Homer, could not appear more horrible. At night I was forced up to the strong room, lay on straw, heard the blasphemies of the basest of miscreants till midnight, was robbed of my watch before morning, and rendered poor indeed.

Yet most of these unfeeling fellows, many of whom were deserters, had friends, who
came

came to their consolation, with food and clean raiment. These were women; for no man, except searched and attended by two soldiers, was suffered to enter the gates. I complained, in a letter to the captain, of my loss in the night, and took an opportunity of briefly describing my unmerited sufferings. He came down to the area with a picquet guard, and ordered every man to be searched. But it proved too late; for several of their female visitors had withdrawn, and no doubt carried away with them my watch.

I wrote to Dr. Sanders in Little Britain, agreeable to his direction, intreating him to represent my calamity to Dr. Pedigree. Here I found it necessary to represent my case, in all its horrors, giving my former friend a brief relation of my successful travels in America, interspersed with such circumstances as might meet the sympathy of the gentleman to whom I requested him to apply.

But in vain I anxiously looked for a return to my letter. Again I wrote, and endeavored to use every pathetic expression in
my

my power. I next wrote more immediately to Dr. Pedigree at Northumberland-house, and sent an epistle also to Mr. Moffatt, the humane surgeon of Great Queen-street; but all my efforts proved ineffectual. No friend ever came to me during the days of my captivity in that dismal dungeon, the military prison of the Savoy.

An order soon came from the secretary at war, for the removal of the impressed men to Chatham, of which we had notice when locked up in the evening, and when several of the common fellows from the gaols were stopped, in consequence of the interference of their friends.

This night, those who were destined to go, were particularly outrageous. They rose up to the roof of the room, tore down the ceiling, and made an aperture, through which several gained the top. I must not disguise my sentiments on the occasion. I not only wished success to their attempt, but also myself lent a helping hand. I had just reached the roof, when a gun was fired by a centinel,

nel, which gave a general alarm to the surrounding guards, who instantly rushed into the quadrangle of the prison, and prevented the escape of a single man.

This was on the morning of the first of April, which proved an all-fool's day to the impressed men. The captain came into the area, caused us all to be hand-bolted, two and two, like so many deferters, and conducted to the water side by a body of armed men. From the embankment we were immediately precipitated to a dirty lime barge from Gravesend, destined to convey us thither. We were fastened under the hatches, amidst a small quantity of lime, and so sailed down the river, through the great arches of the two bridges, guarded by about thirty soldiers and two serjeants under marching orders, who assured us, that their firelocks were loaded with powder and ball.

The tide left us as we arrived at Woolwich, nearly opposite the hulks which employ the convicts. There the bargemen cast anchor, and we remained till about four o'clock in the afternoon before the vessel sailed.

During

During the suspense, the riotous fellows forced open the hatches, and rushing upon deck, seized the fire-arms of some soldiers, who were indulging a repose, and were off the watch. This aroused the rest of the military, and our emancipation again was prevented. The ring leaders, six or seven resolute Hibernians, were fast chained together, and a party was set over them all the way to Gravesend, where we arrived about seven, though it was almost dark before we disembarked, and were conducted up the town to the prison.

We were all forced into a dirty contracted dungeon, and found room only to stand erect. A dreadful alarm of fire being given about midnight, caused the captives to renew their endeavors of freeing themselves from the guards; but though the prison was broke open, and all the hand-bolts removed, not one proved successful.

I dreaded the approach of the coming morning, when I knew I should be again within the

the tyranny of Captain Viculus at Chatham Barracks, where that military mercenary commanded; and, I think, I never experienced a more melancholly morning in my life. The rising sun, impartial to all, darted his rays through the adamantine bars, and discovered our truly deplorable situation. My sable weeds were whitened by the chalk which adhered to the barge, and gave me the appearance of a magpye. My deep distress prevented every idea of levity at the time in my mind, but I met the derision of my companions, whose garments were not so capable of injury.

We were consigned by the serjeants of the guards over to a body of militia then stationed in that town, and by them escorted to Chatham. The day was exceeding pleasant, but to me could yield but little delight, as dragged along like a slave. The season being remarkably forward, presented the fruit-trees in blossom, and the verdant meadows enamelled with flowers. But what are the beauties of the fair landscape, adorned with all the
glory

210 THE KENTISH CURATE.

glory of the spring, to captives? What to me are the winding rivers which flow along the fertile vallies, and around the waving forest? —Ah! do I beh old the very sequestered grove where I was exposed as soon as I breathed, and where my generous patron, now no more, held forth his protecting hand to rescue me from death? Yes; yonder is the flowery hill on which Sir George, near seven and twenty years ago, was in his morning meditation, when interrupted by my tender cries, as he has often told me. Nearer and nearer the poor captive, consigned to misery, bends to the bower, and can just espy the mansion to which his patron caused the rustic to convey him, and the more hospitable cottage where he, unconscious of the kind providence that protected him, hung upon the breast, received every needful blessing, and was led on to life. Cannot the same divine protecting power, even now, amidst all this accumulated misery, still be extended?

We were much exposed to the populace on the road, and insulted by our conductors
all

all the way. Those who had been most active in the outrages were double bolted. The serjeant of the party, which was around me, behaved with extreme insolence, and bestowed on me many epithets not worth repeating. Indeed he was little more than the shade of a soldier, being an effeminate finical fellow, destitute of every generous principle, and assuming a ferocity which ill became him, and rendered him contemptible in the sight of even the men whom he commanded.

We were stared at by the people of Stroud, Rochester, and Chatham, to whom we were represented by the serjeant as a set of nefarious fellows unfit for civil society, and selected from the prisons of the metropolis. This could not fail of preventing the commiseration of every one, and we were not suffered to halt a minute all the way of our march, which was about eight or nine miles.

At length, arriving at the barracks, we were drawn up in a rank on the parade to be reviewed by the captain. I indulged a faint hope that he would not know me so disguised with

with lime and dust, but he soon discovered me, having, no doubt, had previous notice of my being returned from the Nightingale. The moment he beheld me, he fell into a fit of laughter, and like a buffoon, danced for joy on the parade.

He pointed me immediately out to the inferior officers who attended him, calling me The Kentish Curate, and declaring that I was a fit fellow for chaplain or *powder monkey* to the regiment abroad, to which, he said, I should be quickly consigned.

After his infernal exultation was somewhat subsided, we were conducted to the place called the New Guard, and there separated into parties, being put into rooms perpetually guarded by soldiers.

Captain Viculus soon after came into the apartment where I was lodged, and being quite at home, and apprized that several of his countrymen were among the captives, addressed us in the following *elegant* manner: "My lads, you are all now under my protection. I will cut you into pound pieces, chain

chain you down to the floor, and send you to hell, if I but hear of your attempting to stir an inch from the room without leave." Then turning himself to the serjeant who attended him, he thus concluded his harangue: "Serjeant, let a man always stand with his bayonet in his hand within the door to watch the motions of the fellows, whom he shall run through the body on their first attempt to get out. I stand no repairs. Above all, beware of The Kentish Curate. I know he hates me in his heart. Particularly mark his conduct, and report it to me. I will strip the flesh from his bones, before he leaves the barracks, if he behaves in the least amiss; for I *knows* him as well as he knows himself—that is all."

The continel, thus set over us day and night, was relieved every two hours. The vigilance of such foldiers set not aside the design of the captives of effecting their repeated purpose of escaping. Whilst some were employed in diverting the attention of the soldier, who generally was a new recruit,

others

others occupied their time in cutting the iron bars, and making a breach in the wall of the fire place. Three Irishmen one morning got clear, by taking advantage of the sleeping centinel. One escaped in a woman's apparel, another made his way through the wall, but the bars of the window being observed removed, and the above men being missing, caused the guard to be doubled, and effectually prevented the success of every future effort.

Colonel Townsend arriving at the barracks, caused all the captives to be examined by the Doctor, that such as he approved might be new cloathed, and sent on board a vessel on the Medway bound for America.

Twenty at a time were conducted to the Captain's house, and ordered to strip to the skin all together in a room, where were the Colonel, Captain, Doctor, and the Sergeant Major. Our being thus exposed during the tedious investigation, seemed to afford no small satisfaction to Viculus, who had placed his kept mistress and her maid in
the

the kitchen to peep through a hole in the wall for the purpose of enjoying the scene. This I could easily observe from the Captain's conduct at the chimney place, and his nods, gestures, and whispers through the aperture. This was mortifying to me beyond description, and an insult on humanity and modesty scarcely to be paralleled. But we were obliged to obey. A band of soldiers stood at the door; and there is a day, when the most nefarious fellow who ever disgraced the military profession, can triumph in his tyranny with impunity, and without remorse.

The Doctor proved a very superficial examiner, and a low fellow, who formerly had been a bug destroyer in ordinary to a garrison. I never had observed so much impudence before in a Caledonian, for his accent soon informed me of his country.

As soon as the examination was over, and we were all declared fit for the service, the Captain peeped through to his lady, and bade her be attentive. He then turned round on his

his heel, and having his cane, commanded us to perform a kind of minuet to the found of the fife and drum. This I alone peremptorily refused, and received several cuts on the back from the rod of this diabolical oppressor. I still persevered in my resolution, standing in a corner with as much decency as I could, and put on my cloaths before the dance was done.

But a still more mortifying incident awaited me. As soon as we were returned to the room from whence we came, the Serjeant Major, with assistants, came with cloathing for all the impressed men whom the Doctor had passed. A check shirt, a pair of trousers, and a red jacket, were given to every manto put on, and the soldiers were ordered to see us attired in these half military and half naval uniforms. I need not inform the reader, that it was with the utmost reluctance that I assumed my new character. I threw at first the habiliments about the room, resolving not to put them on without the most irresistible coercion. I

was

was cast into a fit of temporary madness, and little more would have drove me to despair of the aid of that providence on which I had long trusted, without the disappointment of my wishes, when directed for my own good.

But I was obliged to comply with the orders of the imperious captain, who chanced to come into the room in the midst of my frenzy. He ordered two soldiers to despoil me of my sables, which remained still decent after the lime was removed, and saw himself the rags of royalty put on me. My own garments were forced away from me, and immediately sold to a Jew in waiting, the money being given to the soldiers for their trouble.

This was an act which will brand the name of Viculus, as we here call the captain, with eternal infamy. As soon as he was gone, I cast the jacket out of the window, regardless of the consequence, nor ever after was forced to wear the military livery.

I now every hour expected to embark on board the ship in the river, and reckoned it needless to write any more to my friends in

London, who appeared totally inattentive to all my calamities.

At the first, every impressed man received six-pence a day; and indeed that was all I had to subsist on. I diverted my mind from melancholy by writing, and yet despaired not of some unforeseen act of providence in my favor.

From that little daily income, I was enabled to purchase paper and implements of writing; but that soon was taken away, and every room of captives had allowed in lieu of the same, a quantity of beef and mutton, with a loaf, about the size of a quartern one in London. In this allowance we were sadly cheated by the serjeant surveyor, which reduced the messes so low, that we could hardly live. However, I found means of acquiring a few pence from the soldiers, who employed me to write letters. This helped me out of my difficulties, and my inactive life, rendered moderation in meals the more necessary.

We were one day escorted to the top of the

the hill above the Barracks, which afforded me an opportunity of veiwing the delightful country, and especially the place of my supposed nativity; at least the shades where I was discovered by my benefactor, the first Lord Lyttleton. It is impossible for me to depict the emotion of my melancholy mind on viewing the farm-house and the village which I well yet remembered. But though the distance from the park was not considerable, it was impossible for me to pass to the dear delightful spot, through the circle of soldiers placed round the impressed men. All these of whom, except myself, were tumbling and performing their wanton gambols on the eminence, during our airing. After being about an hour refreshed with the fragrance of the field, we were conducted to the barracks, and lodged in our dreary dungeons.

Another day, we were conducted down to Gilham-Fort, and there ordered to bathe in the salt water, by the side of an old East Indian hulk kept for prisoners, the boats belonging to which, being sent out on the

river to prevent our escape by swimming. One man that day, being an excellent diver, found means to elude the vigilance of the boat-men, and set all the military, with their guns, at the most consummate defiance. He reached an island within sight, when the watermen were sailing in an opposite direction, and stood on the banks to recover his breath, before he again launched into water, to reach the southern shore. Several of the soldiers, fired, by captain Viculus's command, but without effect. The fellow soon got over, and ran through the long grass of the meadow, up to a thick copse on the hill, as naked as one of the ancient Picks, or Britons, and got clear away from the captivity.

This caused the enraged captain to call every man immediately on shore, and we were soon conducted back to barracks, amidst the curses of that silly ferocious fellow.

I understood, one morning, from a peasant, who brought milk to our apartment, that Squire Hellier, once the friend of my noble protector, and patron, was still alive,

as well as his lady, and sister, to whose care I had been consigned on the morning when I was discovered in the barker, and brought to their mansion. I likewise asked him, who it was that officiated as curate, at Maidstone, and whether he knew any thing about an old gentlewoman, named Mrs. Stubbs? His answer to the first enquiry was, "I cannot tell any thing about curates, for I am a methodist." To the second interrogatory, he answered in the affirmative, and declared that Mrs. Stubbs was living, and well, though of a prodigious age, and reckoned the greatest witch in all the wild of Kent. I then asked him, if he knew one farmer Smith, in the park over the hill? He said, "Yes." I thanked him for the information I had received from this converse, which was abruptly broken off, - by the coming of the captain, who asked me, if I wanted to make the milk-man as rank a presbyterian, bible-faced fellow, as myself?

The purpose of his coming, was to inform us, that we were all immediately to embark

on board the Naomi, in Chatham river. "As to you, Mr. Kentish Curate," addressing himself immediately to me, "You shall soon see me as good as my word, by sending you to Nova Scotia, and to the devil." I bowed to the military blockhead, smiled at his superior insolence, and yet cherished a ray of hope in my afflicted mind.

The barracks where we lay were instantly surrounded with soldiers, the drums beating a march, and the captain commanding us to withdraw from the apartment, in his usual style of, "Get out you rascals, and if one of you offers to run away, I will blow his brains out."

Several of the men now demanded their arrears, that part of their pay which had not been laid out in the messes. The captain pretended to come to an account, and, calling the purveyor, found that each man had just half a crown coming to him.

"But," vociferated the captain, "are no damages done in the barracks, during the stay of the rascals, to be accounted for?" "Certainly

tainly, your honor," cried the mercenary swindling serjeant, "the bars of the windows, the breaking of shelves, and so forth, must be charged."

Here the captain pretended to write, and soon declared, that he would stop a shilling out of every impressed man's arrears, so ordered eighteen pence to be put down to each.

This created much murmuring amongst the men, which encreased as we approached the water side. One of them, who had also a former demand on the captain for procuring him a fine puppy of the Duke of Devonshire's breed, was extremely clamorous on the occasion, and refused to go on board without satisfaction. On this the captain ordered two of the serjeants to seize and drag him down the steps; but as they were so doing, he happened to snatch the commander by the collar, and precipitated himself, the serjeants, and the captain, headlong down, about thirty or forty steps, to the water edge.

This accident proved propitious to me, as it prevented farther insults from the military

genius, and procured time to reach the boat which carried us on board, before the captain could recover himself.

The vessel, when the complement was embarked, was prodigiously crowded, as the number of soldiers set to guard us, and who were to attend us all the voyage, was double to that of the impressed men and deserters. However, we were all stowed up in our births in boxes one over another, each having a little bedding allowed by the officers on board, who appeared to be gentlemen of great humanity.

The first day we had no allowance of victuals in the vessel, but the next received plenty of pork, and plump-pudding, with soup, and tolerable small beer, and burgou. Several boats coming continually along side, the men, who had money, purchased ale, and even procured spirituous liquors; which, drinking to excess, inspired them to commit fresh outrages, in cutting the cable, attempting to seize the arms from the commander

mander, and confining the guards below deck.

These attempts, were all unattended with the desired success; for the desperadoes were overpowered, by the fresh forces from the barracks, and doomed to suffer for their temerity.

It was now determined, that the ship should immediately leave the river, put out to sea by the way of Sheerness, and remain, during the voyage to Hallifax, in Nova-Scotia, under the convoy of a man of war, waiting at the Nore for that purpose.

Accordingly next morning, the Naomi was towed down the river, but the pilot proving unskilful, ran the vessel fast a ground by the side of an island, where she remained sinking on her larboured side till the tide was quite gone. This rendered our situation quite perilous, as the deck was almost perpendicular, and the masts level with the water. We were removed, as soon as boats could be procured, round to the Old East Indian prison ship, called Security, and

there lodged for a night, with all the soldiers from on board.

As we were conducted upon the main deck of this huge hulk, and surrounded by the mariners and press-gangs, I observed my late companion, Cockburn, on board, and busily employed with the rest in hurrying us down to the hold. I had just an opportunity of calling him by name, when he expressed the utmost surprise, and exclaimed, "Ah! Mr. Lyttleton, the Kentish Curate, have I caught you, man, in your own country?"

I had not time to answer the poor fellow, whom I was glad to see still on the English coast; for we were soon all locked up in the hold, which was dark and damp, being allowed no provision for that night, but promised some the next morning, if we behaved well.

Without a coat to my back, or any bedding allowed, I lay down on the pitched planks, amidst the intolerable noise of my companions, who renewed their outrage, and threatened

threatened to sink the ship, if the officers on board persisted in their resolution of denying the provision.

This caused a lieutenant to descend, accompanied with a strong guard, carrying two bars of iron, of about twelve feet long each; on which he swore, if we were not more submissive, he would string a score of the ringleaders.

This threatening called up all the rage of the desperate dissenters, and such who were ripe for a revolt. They instantly seized the lieutenant and his guard, and, overcoming them, put them in the irons prepared for the rioters.

At the same time, a body of impressed men stood at the gang-way, armed with cutlasses of the captive guard, to prevent the soldiers, and other people on board, from coming down.

I attempted all in my power to dissuade my fellow unfortunates from persevering in such a hopeless attempt, as the guards above, who began to fire, were numerous, and
could

could easily be augmented from the fort, contiguous to our situation.

This was attended with a salutary effect; and I had the happiness soon to see matters more amicably settled than I expected. The lieutenant and his company were released immediately, on promising to forgive the assailants, and furnish us all with such food as the ship afforded. They punctually observed the stipulation, pitied us as ill used men, (for I related the cruelty of Captain Viculus,) and we had a refreshment of biscuit, cheese, and small beer, in plenty.

This drew a number of cheers from the rioters themselves; who, instead of making any farther attempt to sink themselves; with the whole crew, sang till midnight, and roared till sleep overtook us all.

In this most dismal dungeon, I enjoyed one of the most delightful dreams that ever my fancy had formed. I thought I was sat down at a sumptuous entertainment, where the richest viands were prepared in a style the most superb and delicate imaginable, in the company

ny

ny of agreeable friends, and the most pleased companions I had ever beheld. Amidst the daughters of music and mirth, I met my Maria, adorned with smiles, and ready to meet me as I arose to salute her. But the noise of the instruments of melody waxed so loud, that I could not hear her charming strains, as I approached the place where she sat, and the vision instantly disappearing, I awaked, found myself still in the dreary hold, reclined on the planks which adhered to my shirt and trousers; and instead of the harmony which I fondly imagined, my ears were stunned with the thundering drums on the deck, which warned us to ascend, in order to be returned to the barracks.

About ten at a time were called up. I was one of the first on deck, and the lieutenant told me, that he intended to mention me to the governor of the garrison, for the good offices I had done to him the preceding evening. I was then led down to the boat with my companions, and guarded to shore, where we were met

met by a party from the barracks, with the Captain at their head.

The instant we landed, the lieutenant called the captain aside, and whispered to him something, which I supposed was about me. The captain received what he heard in a violent fit of passion, and pointing to me, exclaimed, "Arrah, my dear, but you are damnably deceived in that fellow; for he is as rank a rascal as ever ran away from a regiment." The lieutenant returned a nod, and went to the hulk for the rest of the captives, who being all landed, our names were called over by the serjeant-major as we were ranked, and so were escorted over the fields to the place of our destination, and there returned to our several wards, where we were doubly guarded, and put on short allowance, to humble our haughty spirits, but more to fill the pockets of the mercenary slaves in authority.

The same evening, about eleven o'clock, a party of the riotous impressed men, seized the guards as they were relieving the centinels

nels, and proceeded to bind them fast in the ward, whilst we all were to attempt an escape. But the corporal, who staid in the passage between the rooms, being aware of their intention, fired a gun, and suddenly alarmed the garrison; the drums beating to arms, and the officers immediately assembling round the guard-room.

Though I was merely passive in the outrage, I was not a little dreadful of the malevolent captain, who quickly came up to the ward, and blustered like the hero of a romance. He swore that we should remain in his custody no longer than till next morning, and threatened till then to chain us all together like so many hell-hounds.

The soldiers spoke well in my favor, and prevented the execution of menaces on me. Those who they declared had been active, were chained two and two together, and carried away to another guard-room.

The next morning, very early, the drums alarmed us, and warned us to make ready to embark on board another ship on the river.

All

All the impressed men were mustered on the parade; and whilst the ringleaders of the faction were joining us, the captain was mindful to give every one of them a severe beating on the back with his cane, not forgetting to bestow the same favor on myself, who happened to be ranked near them.

We were now formed into a circle, and the hero was about to display his elocution, when a gentleman, well dressed in black, with a bag wig, ran up to him in the centre, and presented paper.

I observed the captain completely agitated. He stormed and swore like a fury. The gentleman remained cool, and called out, "La-muel Lyttleton, come forward." A centinel forced me up to the centre, and informed the gentleman that I was the person. The gentleman then shewed me the paper, which proved a *Habeas Corpus* for my immediate removal, by order of the Right Honourable Lord Mansfield, Lord Chief Justice of his Majesty's Court of King's Bench.

I was instantly overcome with the good

news

news, and could say nothing in return for the kind offices of my friends; when the captain was pleased to demand his fees; and the return of the few filthy rags which he had forced on me, when he feloniously carried away and sold my own. The gentleman, who was an attorney in the Temple, gravely replied to the Captain's demand, telling him he should soon have his royal rags; but as to fees, he must exact them, when he had finished his business in Westminster-hall before the court of King's Bench; to which he was resolved to bring him, the next term, to answer for his various acts of cruelty and oppression; one of which he had just been himself an eye witness to.

So saying, the Attorney led me into the Canteens (a suttlng-house) where, to my unspeakable surprize, the instant I entered, I beheld Dr. Pedigree, the Rev. Mr. Herries, and my old friend Dr. Sanders.

The reader can much better imagine, than I can express what I felt on the occasion. After many mutual congratulations, in which I

was

was too much agitated to act a decent part, the Attorney desired me to strip in the next room; and, after washing my body with water which he had prepared, to put on a good suit of fable, and every thing needful, brought from London for the purpose: when I had so done, I returned to my friends so much altered, that they all shouted aloud; and when I looked in the pier glass, I hardly knew myself.

At the instant the drums beat a march, and I beheld with tears the poor unfortunate fellows, guarded away from the parade, shouting and singing as they went; for indeed they could not possibly go to a place of greater oppression.

We now all sat down to a little refreshment, when Dr. Sanders produced the letters which I had wrote to him whilst in the Savoy which Mr. Herries read to the company.

“ Ah,” exclaimed Sanders, “ I durst not come to visit you in those realms of horror, for I had been there before, as I informed you and my friend Herries at St. Alban’s. Since that,

that, Mr. Lyttleton," continued the doctor, "I have seen many a sad melancholly day indeed. I have lost my best friend, your noble patron; and I have lost also the darling of my soul, my eldest child Mary, in whom centered all my most ardent wishes. That event, Sir, has cloathed me in this raven hue; and, I believe, that the intense sorrow which I feel, will soon bring down my grey hairs with sorrow to the grave."

This giving a gloom to the company, Mr. Herries repeated the following lines with his usual eloquence, which the Doctor assured me had never been published.

No longer need a father weep,

Nor a fond mother sigh,

For Mary, fairest virgin was

A native of the sky.

She was a fragrant op'ning flow'r,

The first in beauty's train,

Bear'd in the nursery of grace

To deck the heav'nly plain.

Pure love pervaded all her ways;

The kindness on her tongue

Drapp'd

Dropp'd sweetness from her balmy lips,

In more than mortal song.

Heav'n look in love, beheld her pure,

And bade the virgin come;

The stinging arrow, dipp'd in love,

But hail'd Maria home.

Forbid we then the falling tear,

Forbid the tender sigh,

These graces, late adorn'd the maid,

Now ornament the sky.

When sons of grace and goodness meet,

No more perplex'd to roam;

Pure angels clad in joy shall greet

Their sister from the tomb.

“Come away,” cried Dr. Pedigree, filling up the glasses, and wearing a gladsome countenance: “Let us not devote this day to sadness, which we have ordained for joy.”

“I think it is high time for my friend Herries to leave spouting to clubs at taverns, or the Westminster Forum.”

Soon after leaving the Suttling-house, we met the captain and Dr. Last of the Barracks, on the grand parade. The attorney now took

took an opportunity of informing Viculus, that the royal rags which he so much coveted, and had just claimed, were left for him at the canteens; at the same time assuring him, that he might soon expect to hear further from him.

Proceeding up the hill, where lately I had been surrounded as a slave, in company of the other captives, Sanders assured me that the best part of the play yet remained to be acted. When we came to the park of Squire Hellier, I could not help discovering much emotion of sympathy, whilst I shed abundance of tears at the remembrance of my protector.

“The ways of providence,” said Dr. Pedigree, in a soothing strain of compassion, “are dark and mysterious. We see at a time but a small part of God’s ways to man. Here,” continued the Doctor, “you was abandoned by your parents, and here heaven took you up, consigning you to the care of a generous friend. Now that friend is no more, expect still to experience protection
from

from above. You have travelled through a great part of America, been present amid dangers and death, and have at least surmounted all your difficulties. Your parents still live. You have long been searching for them in vain, and now let not surprize overpower your susceptible soul, when they are ready to make their appearance, the moment we arrive at yonder mansion, to which your humane benefactor first conveyed you in the basket."

"O good Heaven!" I cried, "have I been traversing the great globe itself for a series of years without success, to discover my honored parents, to whom, under the Supreme I owe my being, and now, at length, am to meet them with transport in the very shades where they left me!"

"Say no more," exclaimed Sanders, "you know, Lamuel, that you had another object in view, when you came to England, and sailed to America. Supposing we should also, to cut short your future peregrinations, afford you a transient sight of dear Maria

ria Bradley, what would you say to that, Sir?"

Before I could reply, a very venerable matron came running from the hall, whose amiable features I quickly recollected to have beheld at Berwick-upon-Tweed. She soon selected me from the rest of the company, tore open my waistcoat, and eagerly inspected a mark on my left breast. Then, with unspeakable transport, embracing me in her arms, she loudly acclaimed, ["My boy! my long lost boy!" and fainted in the tender paternal caresses.

All my soul was in rapture. But the ecstasy was too much for humanity. My senses were quite absorbed, and was hardly able to utter a single sentiment.

Before I was quite aware, amidst this scene of superior gladness, a healthful, grave-looking, elderly gentleman, made his appearance, and strove to sooth the too warm emotions in my mother's tender bosom. "This is your father," cried Dr. Pedigree. I heard his voice for the first time
and

and sunk into his arms, whilst he cried,
 “ My son ! my darling son, whom I was
 obliged to abandon in this place ! ”

We were led into the hall by the gentlemen, where we were met by the squire and his lady and sister, with the old mother, Mrs. Stubbs, the prophetess, who all surrounded me, whilst the tears gushed in torrents from my eyes.

Dr. Pedigree had in a measure prepared me for the effecting scene, in an handsome speech, supplied every deficiency on the part of my parent and myself, by throwing in several beautiful moral reflections, which expressed my sentiments better than I could at any other time, and much more on the occasion. He produced instances from an ancient history of a similar nature to the present act of providence. Herries spoke some soft things from his favorite bards. Sanders recited a tale from a Scottish historian, pertinent to the subject ; the attorney bade us all be quiet, for he was resolved to see me righted at last, and to try also his skill to
 bring

bring the miscreant mercenary captain to condign punishment.

“What is all this to the purpose, gentlemen?” vociferated Mrs. Stubbs. “This is the boy of my baptism, whom I named at the font *The Kentish Curate*. Well did I then know who his father was; but I was not witch enough, I must confess, then, to know his mother.”

“Come, come, gentlemen,” cried Sanders, “I have been the principal actor in this plot. What signifies talking to a young fellow like Lamuel about parents? Is it not said, that a man must leave father and mother, and cleave to his wife?”

“That,” said Dr. Pedigree, smiling, “brings us to the last thing proposed, which was to withdraw to the cottage where the young man was first reared.”

Before we could get from the hall, the serjeant major of Chatham Barracks came to the gates, the sight of whom really alarmed me. “That is the very fellow,” said Sanders, “whom I once saw at the Savoy. I hope in heaven he is not come to carry back

the redeemed captive." "Oh! never fear that," exclaimed the Attorney, the *Habeas Corpus* of Lord Mansfield has more force than all the King's army."

So saying, he went to the gate, spoke to the serjeant for some time, and returned, telling us, that the captain had lowered his thunder, and was disposed to capitulate.

My father, who had been informed of the captain's conduct, said he would freely forgive him, and so desired that the affair might be carried no further. This the Attorney, by no means approving, I proposed, that if the captain could procure the discharge of Cockburn from the security, I should require no more of him. This was at length agreed to, and the serjeant returned with his answer.

We now all walked up to the Hermitage, amidst the hazel copse, and beheld the recluse cell where I originally was discovered. This scene renewed the display of tenderness in my parents, and raised in my mind such affections and ideas which are too big for language to express. I missed Dr. Pedigree on a sudden, but soon saw him approaching us, attended

tended by an elderly gentleman in a quaker's garb, leading two young ladies.

Before the doctor came within an hundred yards, he asked me which of the damsels was the object of my choice. I quickly ran with all the eagerness of love and rapture, to my adorable Maria, and embraced her with inexpressible tenderness, in my longing arms. The other young woman proved my own sister.

"This is the fair one," cried Dr. Sanders, "whom you have long been seeking in the western world, and now receive her as the best boon that Heaven can bestow in this life." "You have now my hearty consent," exclaimed the Quaker, who was Mr. Bradley the father of my fair one, "for I have heard of all your toil and trouble, and came to comfort you."

"We are now in the Druid's temple," said Sanders; "and as there are plenty of priests present, why cannot these two be made one immediately?"

We returned to the Hall, and there resided, till proper preparation was made for the ceremony of marriage, which was performed
by